



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/>

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15 February 2026 • 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, Bob Marini, 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, 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, Fe Licup Carmen, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli and Camenzul Family, 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, Pauline Meilak, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, William & Emilia Mifsud, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Bertu, Albert, Paul, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula and Mula Family, Anton & Lourda Motha, Xavier Motha Jnr, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Lakshman Perera, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Benigno & Rosita Riveral, Mary Silva, Christopher Solomon, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella.

****Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.****

THE PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Statue of Virgin Mary is available for home visitation and will reside with you for a week, being Sunday to Saturday. If you are wishing to participate, please leave your name and address with the Parish Office or contact Maryse Angseesing on 0467 701 010.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my needs, my troubles, my sufferings; cast on me a look of pity. By appearing in the grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, from which you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain most loving mother, my requests, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.



Amen.

REGULAR COLLECTIONS - First and Second

FIRST COLLECTION is for the support of Priests throughout the Diocese.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy
BSB: 067 950
ACC: 00 00 4265
Reference: Seven Hills - 6035

SECOND COLLECTION or Planned Giving Program

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to thank you very much for your ongoing support, which has been absolutely vital in keeping our Parish going strong. Projects completed include the Hall Kitchen renovation, Parish Meeting Room painting, Parish Office and Meeting Room Roof painted, Church roof cleaned and ceiling repaired and painted.

ON-LINE BANK DONATIONS

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

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

IN-PERSON BANK DEPOSIT (at a Bank Inst / Branch)

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church
BSB: 062 315
ACC ID # 00901486
AGENT # 660

SMART DEVICE TERMINALS

All donations made via these new machines are shared 50/50 with our Diocese



KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit www.olol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM**(R) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

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|--|--|
| 1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.) | 3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R.) |
| 2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R.) | 4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R.) |
-

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Dear friends,

Apart from the law given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai known as Moses' Law, Jewish people in Jesus time also had another set of law called the oral traditions including 613 articles aimed to interpret Moses' Law, though the oral traditions were man-made, they pertained to all parts of Jewish life and included everything in detail from what foods could be eaten to what was an acceptable sacrifice to God. More than anyone else in the community, the Pharisees had strictly observed the oral traditions and treated them as divine, therefore those who violated them were simply regarded as sinners.

Jesus objected to the oral traditions because the Pharisees and the scribes had turned them into something untouchable and more important than ordinary people. For example, one could make an excuse for ignoring someone in need on the Sabbath for the sake of observing the oral traditions. Jesus encouraged his followers to have common sense and had no hesitation to acknowledge that there were extraordinary circumstances when people should be allowed to break the oral traditions, and such a stand of his of course did upset those legalistic Pharisees and scribes, and as a result they often charged Jesus of breaking the law. In response, Jesus had to defend himself against such a deadly charge. The Gospel today is a good example of his initiative. Here Jesus makes it very clear to the disciples, that the virtue or the spirituality the Pharisees and scribes had followed, was just shallow and superficial, and he had something more profound and genuine to pass onto them. For instance, the law said not to commit murder, and Jesus wanted his disciples to not even get angry with others. The law said not to commit adultery, and Jesus expected the disciples not even to look lustfully at someone. The law allowed divorce to happen, and Jesus disallowed it. The law said not to take false oath, and Jesus said not to swear at all. Then he went on to instruct the disciples to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them (cf Mt 5. 34) as God the Father has led by example, causing the sun to rise on both the good and the bad and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Later, He even instructed Peter to forgive not merely seven times, but seventy-seven times (cf Mt 18.21-22).

By comparing between what the Jewish authority expected from the community and what he has championed for, Jesus managed to show his followers that he broke no law and even surpassed it a great deal with his teachings. Despite his effort to clarify his position, his opponents showed no appreciation of it and were so determined to go ahead with the plot to get rid of him. We know all too well the outcome toward which this leads, an outcome that the coming Lenten season, beginning with Ash Wednesday shall take us to.

Let us pray today for the wisdom to help us see and appreciate the beauty of the Good News Jesus has given us and the willingness to follow his way of love and forgiveness.

Happy Lunar New year and have a Gospel-oriented week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

The 18th of February 2026 is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Mass times for the day will be:

8am, 9.15am (school mass), 7.30pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during LENT. Starts Friday 20th of February at 7.30pm.

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.

DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT 2026

'The Journey Home' will be a reliable source of spiritual nourishment for you through Lent and cost you just \$3.00 each, less than we paid, so please don't hesitate to buy for yourselves a copy this week.

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.

THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Children aged 9-14yrs are invited to our first 2026 session this Sunday, 15 February, 3:30 – 6pm. Scan the QR codes on the posters around the exits of the church to register.

DO SOMETHING EXTRA FOR LENT

Lent is a time to focus on prayer, to open our hearts and minds to God. You are invited to experience God's peace and love by slowing down and reflecting in a small group every Thursday morning at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. Contact Olivia 0423 890 978 for further enquiries.

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

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.

PARISH FEAST DAY THANK YOU

It was great to see the tsunami of people filling up the hall after Mass, what a Feast Day celebration this year! Thank you everyone for joining us at the luncheon, and on behalf of the parish I'd like to especially thank all of our volunteers led by Evelyn Beed and our Parish staff for giving their best in preparing prizes, cooking plenty of food for parishioners to enjoy, setting up tables and chairs and the PA system, serving food, providing live entertainment, selling the raffle ticket and cleaning up at the end. You worked like the most well-oiled engine to make everything happen so well. May God bless you and reward you generously for your kindness.

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.

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.

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth Gathering

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are inviting parishioners to join them for a Holy Family Association & Friends gathering.

Date: Saturday, 21 February 2026
Venue: Queen of Poland Convent, Meeting Room,
116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong
09.30 am: Morning Tea
10.30 am: A talk on explaining the Mass
12.00 pm: Eucharist: Fr Kevin Redmond, SM at the
Convent Chapel
followed by Lunch

For more information and to RSVP by 19 February,
Sr Rita 0424 678 766 Email: rita@csfn.org.au



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



2026 ACBC Social Justice Statement on the cost of living

The Australian Bishops have released the first of two Social Justice Statements for 2026, titled *"The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good"*. The new statement and accompanying resources can be found at socialjustice.catholic.org.au. Printed copies and prayer cards can be ordered directly from the ACBC via shop.catholic.au

LOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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.

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>.

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>

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 Youth Parramatta 2026 Kick-Off: 26 February

Young people from across the Diocese are invited to an evening of celebration as we begin 2026 together. Listen to testimonies from local leaders, take part in prayer, connect with others, and discover the vision for Catholic Youth Parramatta in the year ahead. Thursday 26 February from 7pm to 9.30pm at Holy Family Primary School, 11 Emert Parade, Emerton. Register today: <https://parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/>

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in *Catholic Outlook*, our websites and social media. Name/contact details are required: parracatholic.org/communicators

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.

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

After proclaiming the Beatitudes, Jesus addresses those who put them into practice, saying that thanks to them the earth is no longer the same and the world is no longer in darkness. "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world" (*Mt* 5:13-14). Indeed, it is genuine joy that gives flavour to life and brings to light something that was not there before. This joy springs from a way of life, a way of inhabiting the earth and of living together that must be desired and chosen. It is the life that shines in Jesus, the new flavour of his words and deeds. After encountering Jesus in his poverty of spirit, his meekness and simplicity of heart, his hunger and thirst for justice, which unlocks mercy and peace as powers of transformation and reconciliation, those who would distance themselves from all this seem bland and dull.

The prophet Isaiah lists concrete gestures that overcome injustice: sharing bread with the hungry, bringing the poor and homeless into our homes, clothing those we see to be naked, without neglecting our neighbours and those in our own homes (cf. *Is* 58:7). The prophet continues, "then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily" (v. 8). On the one hand, there is light which cannot be hidden because it is as great as the sun that drives away the darkness every morning; on the other hand, there is a wound that was once burning and is now healing.

Indeed, it is painful to lose flavour and give up joy; yet it is possible to have this wound in one's heart. Jesus seems to warn those who listen to him not to give up joy. Salt that has lost its flavour, he says, "is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot" (*Mt* 5:13). How many people — perhaps we ourselves — feel like they are worthless or broken. It is as if their light has been hidden. Jesus, however, proclaims a God who will never throw us away, a Father who cares for our names and our uniqueness. Every wound, even the deepest, will be healed by welcoming the word of the Beatitudes and setting us back on the path of the Gospel.

Moreover, deeds of openness and attention to others will rekindle joy. At the same time, however, through their simplicity such gestures put us at odds with the world. Jesus himself was tempted in the desert to follow other paths, to assert his identity, to laud it and have the world at his feet. Yet he rejected the paths that would have caused him to lose his true flavour, the one we find every Sunday in the Bread that is broken, which is a life given and a silent love.

Brothers and sisters, let us be nourished and enlightened by communion with Jesus. Without any boasting, we will then be like a city set on a hill, not simply visible, but also inviting and welcoming: the city of God where everyone, deep down, desires to live and find peace. Let us now turn our gaze and our prayers to Mary, the Gate of Heaven, that she may help us to become and remain disciples of her Son.

After the Angelus

Dear brothers and sisters,

Yesterday in Huércal-Overa, Spain, Father Salvatore Valera Parra was beatified. He was a parish priest completely devoted to his people, humble and generous in pastoral charity.

His priestly example of focusing on what is essential can inspire today's priests to be faithful in living each day with simplicity and asceticism.

It is with sorrow and concern that I learned of the recent attacks against various communities in Nigeria leading to a heavy loss of life. I express my prayerful closeness to all the victims of violence and terrorism. I likewise hope that the competent Authorities will continue to work with determination to ensure the safety and protection of the life of every citizen.

Today, the memorial of Saint Josephine Bakhita, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Human Trafficking. I thank the religious and all those who are committed to combating and eliminating current forms of slavery. Together with them, I say: peace begins with dignity!

I offer the assurance of my prayers to the people of Portugal, Morocco, Spain especially Grazalema in Andalusia — and southern Italy, particularly Niscemi in Sicily, who have been affected by floods and landslides. I encourage the communities to remain united and supportive, with the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary.

Now, I welcome all of you: Romans, and pilgrims from Italy and various countries. I greet the faithful from Melilla, Murcia and Malaga, Spain; those from Belarus, Lithuania and Latvia; the students from Olivenza, Spain, and those preparing for Confirmation in Malta. I also greet the young people connected to us from three oratories in the Diocese of Brescia.

Let us continue to pray for peace. History teaches us that strategies of economic and military power do not give humanity a future. The future lies in respect and fraternity among peoples.

I wish all of you a happy Sunday.

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* 5. *The Word of God in the life of the Church*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

In today's catechesis we will look at the profound and vital link that exists between the Word of God and the Church, a bond expressed by the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum*, in the sixth chapter. The Church is the rightful home of Sacred Scripture. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible arose from the people of God, and is destined for the people of God. In the Christian community it has, so to speak, its *habitat*: indeed, in the life and the faith of the Church it finds the space where it can reveal its meaning and manifest its power.

Vatican Council II reminds us that "the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body". Furthermore, "she has always maintained them, and continues to do so, together with sacred tradition, as the supreme rule of faith" (*Dei Verbum*, 21).

The Church never ceases to reflect on the value of the Sacred Scriptures. After the Council, a very important moment in this regard was the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church" in October 2008. Pope Benedict XVI gathered its fruit in the post-Synodal Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (30 September 2010), in which he affirms: "The intrinsic link between the word and faith makes clear that authentic biblical hermeneutics can only be had within the faith of the Church, which has its paradigm in Mary's *fiat*... the primary setting for scriptural interpretation is the life of the Church" (no. 29).

In the ecclesial community, Scripture therefore finds the sphere in which to carry out its particular task and achieve its purpose: to make Christ known and to open dialogue with God. Indeed, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ".

[1] This well-known expression of Saint Jerome reminds us of the ultimate purpose of reading and meditating on the Scriptures: to get to know Christ and, through Him, to enter into a relationship with God, a relationship that can be understood as a conversation, a dialogue. And the Constitution *Dei Verbum* presented the Revelation to us precisely as a dialogue, in which God speaks to humans as though to friends (cf. *DV*, 2). This occurs when we read the Bible with an inner attitude of prayer: God then comes towards us and enters into conversation with us.

The Sacred Scripture, entrusted to the Church and preserved and explained by her, performs an active role: indeed, with its efficacy and power it sustains and invigorates the Christian community. All the faithful are called to drink from this wellspring, first and foremost in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Love for the Sacred Scriptures and familiarity with them must guide those who carry out the ministry of the Word: bishops, priests, deacons, catechists. The work of exegetes and those who practise biblical sciences is invaluable, and Scriptures have a central place in theology, which finds its foundation and soul in the Word of God.

The Church ardently desires that the Word of God may reach every one of her members and nurture their journey of faith. But the Word of God also propels the Church beyond herself; it opens her continually to the mission towards everyone. Indeed, we live surrounded by so many words, but how many of these are empty! At times we even listen to wise words, which do not however affect our ultimate destiny. On the contrary, the Word of God responds to our thirst for meaning, for the truth about our life. It is the only Word that is always new: revealing the mystery of God to us, it is inexhaustible, it never ceases to offer its riches.

Dear friends, living in the Church one learns that the Sacred Scripture is totally relative to Jesus Christ, and one experiences that this is the deep reason for its value and its power. Christ is the living Word of the Father, the Word of God made man. All the Scriptures proclaim his Person and his saving presence, for each one of us and for all humanity. Let us therefore open our hearts and minds in order to receive this gift, following the example of Mary, Mother of the Church.

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.

February 2026

18	Ash Wednesday Mass	8am, 9.15am, 7.30pm
18	Sacramental Meeting (1st)	6.30pm
25	Baptism Meeting	7.30pm
25	Sacramental Meeting (2nd)	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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

21/22 February

Acolytes	Vigil: Frank Paiva 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Rommel Lagare
Ministers	Vigil: D. Green, M. Mifsud 8am: L. Fernandes, M. Santos 9.30am: M. Aquino, P. Gow
Readers	Vigil: C. Rodrigues, N. Sumcad 8am: J. Irudayaraj, K. Walker 9.30am: Z. Smith, A. Walker
Altar Servers	Vigil: J. Hoang, E. Reardon, C. Rodrigues 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Volunteer 9.30am: C. Attard, N. D'Cruz, A. Melki
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group
Flowers	Annette & Raquel
Church Cleaning	25 Feb Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso, Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon

The Kids' Bulletin

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 15th, 2026



Do not think that
I came to abolish
the law or the
...prophets...
Whoever obeys and
teaches the commandments
will be called greatest in the
Kingdom of Heaven.

Some people in Jesus' time thought that He was going to get rid of the old law. What does He have to say about the commandments in today's Gospel reading?

Look at this picture in the mirror to find out!

Ash Wednesday



This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is a special time in which we prepare to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Task: Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the words provided.

pray

Shrove

desert

Satan

church

Wednesday

Jesus

forty

fasted

ash

1. Ash _____ is the first day of Lent.
2. It is the day after _____ Tuesday.
3. Lent lasts for _____ days.
4. Jesus went to the _____ for forty days.
5. Jesus _____ for forty days.
6. _____ joined Jesus and tried to tempt him.
7. I go to _____ on Ash Wednesday.
8. The priest draws a cross of _____ on my forehead.
9. I _____ to Jesus.
10. I thank _____ for his journey to the desert.

Forgiving and Forgiven

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."
Matthew 5:23-24

Based on Matthew 5:21-24



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

ALTAR

ANGRY

PEOPLE

REMEMBER

MURDER

OFFERING

FIRST

FOOL

JUDGEMENT

GIFT

BROTHER

HELL

DANGER

RECONCILED

FIRE



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