



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: 15 April 2026

Baptism: 12 April 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 OF LENT 22 March 2026 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Anna, 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, Michelle Fernando, 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, Yvo Periera, 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: Natalino Bertinato, Maria Coleiro, Josefina De Vera, Dawn Fernando, Camillus Gomez, William "Bill" Gregory, Mary Leeder, James Muscat, Dammitta Soza.

Anniversaries: Astrid Abeleda, Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, Fredy Alphonse, Lourdes Apalisok, Joseph Chary, Audrey & Herman Chillah, Marcel Diab, Samuel Doraisamy, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Rita de Silva, Frank, Emmanuel Falzon, Joe Falzon, Mansour Farid, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, O. Francis, J. Francis, Sammy Formosa, Agostino Fantin, Charlie Galea, Emily Galea, John Harriss, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Albert Moroney, Irene Moroney, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Paul Louis & Stephen Mula, Charles Muscat, Jason Muscat, Apolinario Maglaya, Felina Mayuyo, Marcel Spetter, Sem Serna, Ben Wijitr Benjabutr, Maria & Joseph Nguyen, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Felix & Andreanna Muscat, Augustine Paiva, John Ratnam, Helen Tanti, Arsemio Udan.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Sam Borg, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli and Camenzuli Family, Joseph, Lim Cho, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Lancer De Guire, Edmundo Deloso, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Leandro Garcia Snr Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Francisco Giusa, Salatori Giogio, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, Josefina Lim, Tessie & Andy Mangine, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, Cole Ngan, Bertu, Albert, Paul, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula and Mula Family, Anton & Lourda Motha, Xavier Motha Jr, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Falzon & Muscat families, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, Ngan Pin, Eustace Ratnam, Roseline Ratnam, Benigno & Rosita Rival, Mary Silva, Christopher Solomon, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella. ***Names will be published for 2 weeks at a time.***

Funeral Notice

Maria Coleiro

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seven Hills
Wednesday 25th of March, 10.30am

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 Ezekiel 37: 12-14*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
 2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
 3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
 4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**
-

SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 (Short version refer to slide for long)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

As we know, 'sign' was the word John the evangelist preferred to use in his Gospel, instead of 'miracle' like the writers of the synoptic Gospels for the miracles Jesus performed. John recounted 7 signs in his Gospel starting with the sign of Cana, bringing joy to the host of the wedding he attended with Mary, his mother, and the disciples (cf. Jn 2.1-11). The Gospel reading this Sunday demonstrates his power over death, by bringing Lazarus back to life after spending 4 days in the tomb. This eventually led to the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus that we are about to commemorate once again next week.

Thanks to John, we know that Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha were very close to Jesus. The sisters reveal their special relationship with Jesus, sending Him the message 'Lord, the man you love is ill'. They expected Jesus to respond. Jesus knew what he had to do – wake his friend up from his death and glorify the power of God. Here Jesus opted for the word 'resting' to indicate Lazarus' death, so the disciples got confused, and he had to explain that his friend was dead. More than just a close and loyal friend to Lazarus, Jesus also revealed his human side, deeply touched by the human miseries unfolding before his eyes: the outpouring of emotions by Mary, Martha and their friends and their painful tears. He couldn't stop shedding his tears, and this is the only time he did that.

Prior to carrying out the sign to restore life back to Lazarus, Jesus told Martha something very significant about himself. 'I am the resurrection and the life' and life will be given to those who believe in him and requested her to confirm her belief. In response, Martha assured Jesus that 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' After a brief meeting with Mary, Jesus asked for the location of Lazarus' tomb. When he reached there, he instructed people to help remove the stone covering the tomb. At first, Martha counselled him not to go ahead with the idea, for she was concerned of the odour from her brother's body after four days in the tomb, but Jesus reminded her and those around her of what he said earlier about the glory of God. They agreed to remove the stone. Jesus then began to say a brief prayer to his Father and loudly ordered Lazarus to come out of the tomb. At his command, Lazarus came out of the tomb with burial cloths over his face, feet and hands, and Jesus asked people to unbind him and let him go by himself.

The result of this wondrous sign was more than just giving life back to Lazarus, but also to bring faith to those who witnessed it. This is exactly the point that John highlighted at the very end of the account. As we celebrate the Eucharist for this fifth Sunday of Lent, let us give praise and thanks to God for the gift of Jesus and our share in the resurrection and the life in the world to come that Jesus has promised us, and that we will once again profess today in our Creed, and pray that the way we live our lives always reflect what we believe.

Have a Christ-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

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.

Holy Week 2026		
March		
29	Palm Sunday	Vigil, 8.00am, 9.30am
31	Parish Reconciliation 2 nd Rite	7.30pm
April		
1	Individual Confession	8.30-9.30am
2	Individual Confession <i>Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers</i> Holy Thursday Mass	8.30-9.30am 3.00pm 7.30pm
3	Good Friday Stations <i>Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers</i> Celebration of the Lord's Passion	10.00am 11.30am 3.00pm
4	Confession <i>Practice for Acolytes, Readers, Altar Servers</i> Holy Saturday Mass	9.30-10.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm
5	Easter Sunday Masses	8.00am, 9.30am

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 or 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.

CHURCH HALL CANOPY RAFFLE

1st Prize: Samsung 85" Smart TV – 2nd Prize: \$800 Cash

3rd Prize: \$500 Cash – 4th Prize: \$200 Cash

The raffle will be drawn at the end of the 9.30AM Mass on Sunday 16th August 2026, and we would really appreciate it if you could help buy the tickets or take a few ticket books home to distribute amongst family circles. Many thanks.

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.

HOLY WEEK ROSTERS

Palm Sunday and Holy Week Rosters are now available on the notice board of the back sacristy. Can all ministers please check these. Altar servers if would like to volunteer to serve please put your name down for your chosen mass.

PARISH NEWS CONTINUED...

Lourdes: Luminate (Young Adults Group) Update: Catholic Youth Parramatta: Good Friday Night Walk - Stations of the Cross on Friday, 3rd of April, 2026 10:30pm. Over 1000 young people will walk from St Patrick's Church, Blacktown to St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta stopping by Our Lady of Lourdes Seven Hills at 11:30pm on Good Friday. Calling for volunteers for re-enactment of the Stations 3&4. All are welcome to join as we reflect on the Passion of Christ. Please contact Ian Epondulan - youthlol7h@gmail.com or 0401161264

REPORT FROM OUR LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

We revisited our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2026-2030 and agreed to focus on the IT aspect, to improve our electronic comms, social media and revamping our Parish website and Facebook page. We would be happy to hear from our IT experts, for their ideas and assistance to achieve this goal.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Date: Tuesday 31st March, 2026

Time: 7.30pm

All are welcome to join and visiting clergy will be available to help with your confession.

PARISH HALL CANOPY THANK YOU

We thank all who partake in our Fund-Raising programs for the Hall Canopy building, by signing the Plaque book or by buying and helping with selling of the Raffle, especially Theresa Thu Myint and her family who generously donated a large sum of money towards the project. Your continued support of this project is much appreciated.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

We invite children who received their First Eucharist last year, or before, to join as candidates for this ministry. They may sit in the front row (robes not required) at mass with the current cohort, to familiarise, prior to formal training.

FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM) AT OLOL

Saturday 28-March – 9am, the "Divine Fellowship" group will visit the new Sydney Fish Markets at Blackwattle Bay.

OLOL 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.

OLOL Vulnerable People's Participation

We are a Catholic community that champions the practice of supporting & engaging, listening and communicating with those who are most vulnerable such as children and young people. This in return encourages their participation.

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>.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Positions Vacant:

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

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

Bishop Vincent presents Archbishop Ryan Jimenez: 21 April

Archbishop Ryan Jimenez, Archbishop of Agana in Guam and President of the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific is the first guest speaker for 2026 Bishop Vincent Presents series. Join us at 6pm on Tuesday 21 April in Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, for an evening with Archbishop Jimenez as he reflects on "An Immigrant Bishop for an Immigrant Church." To register, please visit parracatholic.org/jimenez

Launch of Fr Joe's new book: 26 March

Fr Joe, Parish Priest of Baulkham Hills, has just published a new book with the title "Augustine on Listening, Humility and Unity. The Augustinian Root of Pope Leo XIV." Launched by Sister Dr Margaret Ghosn, Theologian and Principal of Maronite College of the Holy Family in Harris Park, and Most Rev Vincent Long Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta. Join us on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7pm at St. Michael's Downey Room, 1 Chapel Ln, 2153 Baulkham Hills.

Free Weekly Legal Clinic at Catholic Care, Emerton

Every Thursday from 11am at Catholic Care, 11 Emert Pde, Emerton) you can visit for FREE legal advice on matters including: Family Law, Care and Protection, Local Court matters, Wills and Estates and Traffic Offences. Walk-ins are welcome, to make a booking call 8843 2500.

Easter Triduum Youth Event – Light to the Nations: 2-5 April (Holy Thursday–Easter Sunday) at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. A Holy Week pilgrimage for young adults (18+; ages 16–17 with an adult) featuring prayer, worship, camping and Easter liturgies. Hosted by the Disciples of Jesus Community.

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

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> .

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

By Devin Watkins

Pope Leo XIV prayed the Angelus on Sunday with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

In his address ahead of the noon-day Marian prayer, the Pope reflected on the day's Gospel, which recounts Jesus' healing of a man who was born blind (Jn 9:1-41). The mystery of salvation is revealed in this event, he said, since the Son of God came to open our eyes as humanity dwelt in darkness. Just like the man in the Gospel, we too were "born blind" to the mystery of life, which far surpasses our ability to understand its depth. "That is why God became flesh in Jesus," he said, "so that the clay of our humanity, shaped by the breath of His grace, might receive a new light, one capable of helping us to see ourselves, others, and God in truth."

Pope Leo recalled the saying that faith is like a "leap in the dark," which implies that faith really means closing our eyes and believing "blindly." Rather, he said, our contact with Christ and His love opens our eyes in a way they have never seen before. "Faith is not a blind act, a forsaking of reason or a retreat into some sort of religious certainty that causes us to turn our gaze away from the world," he said. "On the contrary, faith helps us to see things 'as Jesus Himself sees them, with His own eyes'." The Pope invited Christians to open our eyes so that we can see the sufferings of others and the afflictions that wound humanity.

As violence permeates our world, Christians must bear witness to an "alert, attentive, and prophetic" faith, even in the face of the injustice, violence, and suffering around us. "It should open our eyes to the darkness of the world," he said, "and bring to others the light of the Gospel through our commitment to peace, justice and solidarity."

In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV prayed that the Blessed Virgin Mary may intercede so that Christ may open our hearts and help us bear witness to Him in simplicity and courage.

HOLY SEE: DISMANTLE THE BARRIERS THAT PREVENT WOMEN FROM ACCESSING JUSTICE

By Isabella H. de Carvalho

Ensuring access to justice for women and girls across the world means addressing fundamental issues such as poverty and discrimination, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations said in a statement for the 70th Commission on the Status of Women, taking place in New York from March 9 to 19.

"Ensuring access to justice for women and girls requires more than just formal legal protections," the statement underlined. "It also involves addressing the root causes that put them at risk, prevent them from seeking justice and ultimately undermine their God-given human dignity." "Ensuring access to justice is vital for achieving a just society" and requires "a holistic approach involving the eradication of poverty, the combatting of discrimination and violence, the strengthening of institutions, and education," the statement said.

Tackling violence and discrimination

The Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the UN emphasized the importance of recognizing and dismantling "the barriers that women and girls face, such as violence and discrimination" and called for "effective systems of accountability and a culture of responsibility" to prevent abuse and address violations. The statement noted that "failure to tackle these issues also puts women and girls at risk of revictimization and exploitation," especially when it comes to human trafficking. They explained that women and girls constitute the majority of trafficking victims and are often exploited for prostitution or forced into marriages, surrogacy or criminality. The statement also insisted on the importance of respecting the rights of women and girls who have been accused of crimes, such as ensuring "fair trial guarantees, adequate legal representation," "safe, hygienic, single-sex detention facilities," and adequate care for mothers and pregnant women.

Addressing poverty

The Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the UN also insisted on poverty as being another barrier that affects women's access to justice. They explained how poor women and girls often lack resources to secure legal representation, may not have received quality education or be unaware of their rights and how to navigate the justice system.

Additionally, in rural areas, many women and girls are disadvantaged by a lack of reliable transport or communication networks.

Also, "equal access to justice also requires daughters to receive the same resources and opportunities as sons, and for families to be a healthy and peaceful environment for all," the statement said.



POPE LEO'S CATECHESIS

The Documents of Vatican Council II. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 4. *The Church, a Priestly and Prophetic People*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today I would like to revisit the second chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium* (LG), devoted to the Church as the people of God. The messianic people (LG, 9), receive from Christ the participation in the priestly, prophetic and kingly work office through which his salvific mission is carried out. The Council Fathers teach that the Lord Jesus, through the new and eternal Covenant, has established a kingdom of priests, constituting his disciples as a 'royal priesthood' (1 Pt 2:9; cf. 1 Pt 2:5; Rev 1:6). This common priesthood of the faithful is given with Baptism, which enables us to worship God in spirit and truth, and to "confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church" (LG, 11). Furthermore, through the sacrament of Confirmation, all the baptized "are more perfectly bound to the Church ... and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ" (*ibid.*). This consecration is at the root of the common mission that unites the ordained ministries and the lay faithful.

In this regard, Pope Francis observed that, "Looking at the People of God is remembering that we all enter the Church as lay people. The first sacrament, which seals our identity forever, and of which we should always be proud, is Baptism. Through Baptism and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (the faithful) 'are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood' (LG, 10), [so that] everyone forms the faithful Holy People of God" (*Letter to the President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America*, 19 March 2016). The exercise of the royal priesthood takes place in many ways, all aimed at our sanctification, first and foremost through participation in the offering of the Eucharist. Through prayer, asceticism and active charity, we thus bear witness to a life renewed by God's grace (cf. LG, 10). As the Council summarizes, "it is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation" (LG, 11).

The Council Fathers then teach that the holy People of God also participate in the prophetic mission of Christ (cf. LG, 12). In this context, the important theme of the *sense of the faith* and the *consensus of the faithful* is introduced. The Doctrinal Commission of the Council specified that this *sensus fidei* "is like a faculty of the whole Church, by which she, in her faith, recognises the revelation handed down, distinguishing between true and false in matters of faith, and at the same time penetrates it more deeply and applies it more fully in life" (cf. *Acta Synodalia*, III/1, 199). The sense of faith therefore belongs to individual believers not in their own right, but as members of the People of God as a whole.

Lumen gentium focuses on this latter aspect, and places it in relation to the infallibility of the Church, to which that of the Roman Pontiff is inherent and by which it is served. "The entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One (c. 1 Jn 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief. They manifest this special property by means of the whole peoples' supernatural discernment in matters of faith when from the Bishops down to the last of the lay faithful they show universal agreement in matters of faith and morals" (LG, 12). The Church, therefore, as the communion of the faithful – which naturally includes the pastors – cannot err in matters of faith: the organ through which this truth is preserved, founded on the anointing of the Holy Spirit, is the *supernatural sense of faith* of the entire People of God, which is manifested in the *consensus of the faithful*. From this unity, which the Magisterium of the Church safeguards, it follows that every baptized person is an active agent of evangelization, called to bear consistent witness to Christ in accordance with the prophetic gift which the Lord bestows upon His whole Church.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit, who comes to us from the Risen Christ, "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church" (LG, 12). A particular demonstration of this charismatic vitality is offered by consecrated life, which continually germinates and flourishes through the work of grace. Ecclesial associations, too, are a shining example of the variety and fruitfulness of spiritual fruits for the edification of the People of God.

Special greetings:

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, particularly the groups from Nigeria, Tanzania, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States of America. With prayerful good wishes that this Lent will be a time of grace and spiritual renewal for you and your families, I invoke upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on the Second Vatican Council, today we consider the participation of the faithful in Jesus Christ's priestly, prophetic and royal offices, as presented by the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*. Through the sacrament of baptism, each of us are called to share in Christ's royal priesthood (1 Pt 2:9) and to worship him in spirit and truth, especially through our participation in the Eucharist. We also partake in Jesus' prophetic mission, for we are called to bear witness to the truth of the faith. Indeed, the Council Fathers taught that "the whole body of the faithful ... cannot be mistaken in belief. It shows this characteristic through the entire people's supernatural sense of faith when, from the bishops to the last of the faithful, it manifests a universal consensus in matters of faith and morals" (LG, 12). Along with these gifts shared by all members of the Church, the Holy Spirit continues to allot special graces to the faithful in order to enrich and build up the body of Christ. It is important that we recognize these manifold gifts and express our gratitude to God for allowing us to be partakers in his work of salvation.

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 9th April 2026, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share.

LOURDES: LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

For information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We invite children aged 9-14yrs old to join our Parish junior youth group on every third Sunday of the month. For information please contact Diana Park via email: dianap@olol7hills.com.au or visit [ololyouth7hills](https://www.instagram.com/ololyouth7hills) on Instagram or search 'OLOL Youth Ministry' on Facebook.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

OLOL Parish playgroup is a fun playtime for children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers. It is held every Friday morning during school terms 9.00am-11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Maria Hosni 0432 174 056 or the Parish Office.

LEGION OF MARY

Thursdays at 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome.

CHRIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome

Vinnies Support Centres Are Available To Those In Need

The St Vincent de Paul Society has members and community-focused Vinnies Support Centres right across NSW. They provide people in immediate crisis with assistance. If you need assistance, call 131812 (option 3) to be redirected to your nearest Vinnies Support Centre. To find out more about the support that is available, visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help>. If you'd like to contribute to helping those in need in the local community through the St Vincent de Paul Society, please email Reno Abela at rabel24@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/April 2026

March/April 2026		
28/29	Palm Sunday Masses	6pm, 8am, 9.30am
31	Parish Reconciliation 2nd Rite	7.30pm
2	Last Day of School Term 2	
2	Holy Thursday Mass	7.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

21/22 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am: Rommel Lagare	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Franco, L. La Guidara 8am: J. Irudayaraj, B. Motha 9.30am: G. Basili, E. Miu	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak & Yxavel Dino 8am: J. Mai, K. Walker 9.30am: F. Kennedy, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Alex & Christina La Guidara, Volunteer 8am: Jaxon Blackshaw, Volunteer 9.30am: N. D'Cruz, M. Stormer, E. Wright	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Fennie, Angela, Kamela	
Church Cleaning	25 March	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Nigli	

28/29 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ryan Epondulan	
Ministers	Vigil: D. Green, M. Mifsud 8am: T. Perak, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: A. Han, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, A. Pushparajan 8am: J. Cabasa, P. Ferriols 9.30am: C. Diaz, R. Saldanha	
Altar Servers	Vigil: G. George, Jessica & Joshua Jeganathan 8am: Cassandra Smith, Volunteer 9.30am: C. Attard, L. Sager, J. Steele	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Maximilian Chorale	
Musicians	Vigil: Shaun Jyostna & Chris 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Maximilian Chorale	
Flowers	Annette & Wei	
Church Cleaning	2 April	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

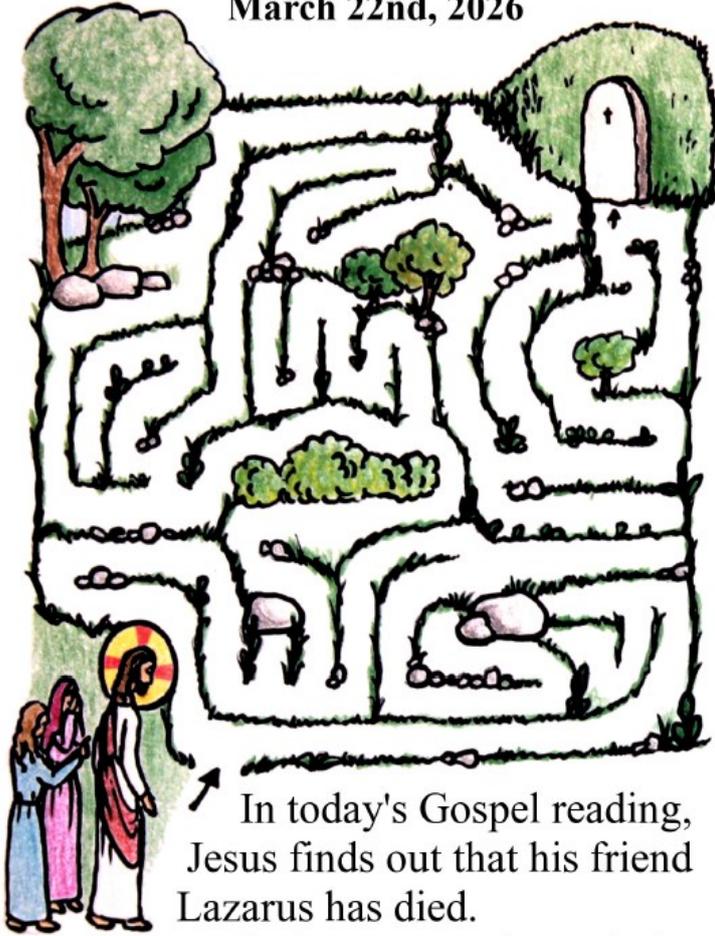
The Kids' Bulletin Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 22nd, 2026



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died.

Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?

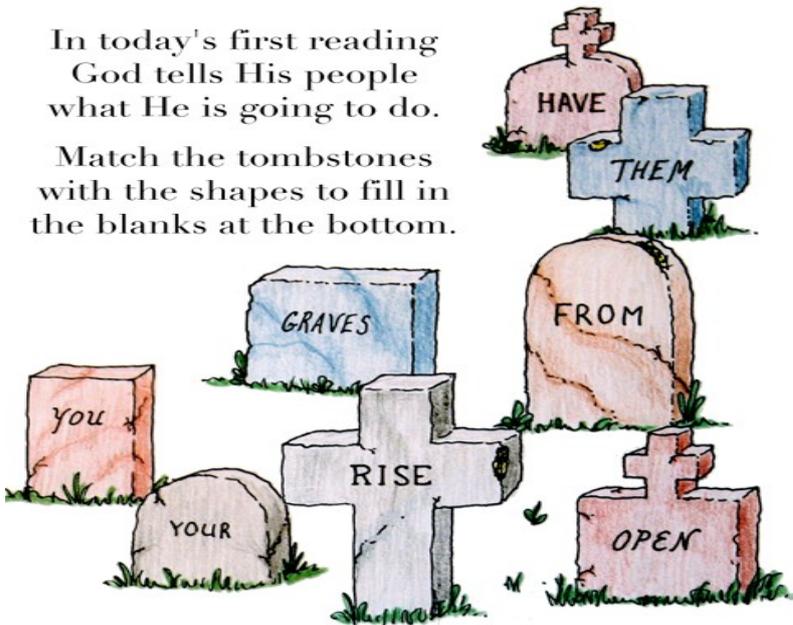
L A Z A R U S E S L E E P M P
Q E N T R A N C E B D F L Y U
L J O A S O W D Y L I F E V L
F N I K T W E I X L G T O M B
X Y K S C Q E S F O E D Z N R
P R A Y E D P C F V R E E E D
B K Q W E S I A E C A H V X
G L F K K N N P O A V T C V R
R L A Z U K G L G T O H G A E
I W O H F E E E Z R R H H V R
S F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

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEEPING	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP

An Ezekiel Puzzle

In today's first reading God tells His people what He is going to do.

Match the tombstones with the shapes to fill in the blanks at the bottom.



I will _____
and _____

