



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 School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Frank Paiva, 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:	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/LOLO7Hills/

PALM SUNDAY 29 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: Ma. Romina Palmos Austria, Maria Coleiro, Dawn Fernando, Camillus Gomez, William "Bill" Gregory, Vincent Jayapala, Mary Leeder, James Muscat, Dammitta Soza, Jessie Zammit

Anniversaries: Astrid Abeleda, Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, Fredy Alphonse, Lourdes Apalisok, Cristina Apolinario, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, Elvina Barnaba, Sam Borg, Joseph Chary, Audrey & Herman Chillah, 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 Fomosa, Agostino Fantin, Charlie Galea, Emily Galea, Manuel Jacob Gomez, John Harriss, Kathleen Harriss, Michael Kolosa, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Albert Moroney, Irene Moroney, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Charles Muscat, Jason Muscat, Marcel Spetter, Sem Serna, Ben Wijitr Benjabutr, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Felix & Andreanna Muscat, Augustine Paiva, Helen Tanti, Arsemio Udán.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli and Camenzuli Family, Joseph, Lim Cho, Marcel Diab, Modsen Diab, Toufic Diab, Debe Diab, Bede Diab, Sam & Silvia Debattista, Emerenciana Dizon, Anacleto Dizon, Carmen, Jimmy, Antonia, Tania, Tony, Vicki, Louie, Joe & Launcer De Guire, Edmundo Deloso, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Evangeline & Leandro Garcia Snr, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Francisco Giusa, Salatori Giogio, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, Rita Jayapala, 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, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Benigno & Rosita Rival, Mary Silva, Christopher Solomon, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Mary Zammit. ***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.

FIRST READING *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend. **(R.)**
 2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**
 3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**
 4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**
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SECOND READING *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 26:14-27:66*





FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

Early Roman Christians, as we know, celebrated Easter as a nocturnal vigil from Saturday night until dawn on Sunday. This was often preceded by strict fasting on Friday and Saturday, focusing on the Resurrection as the "Christian Passover". Celebrations focused on one annual feast, with Holy Week rituals (like processions with branches) developing later. By the 3rd century, Holy Week had evolved to include "Veneration of the Cross" on Good Friday, and eventually, the liturgy was expanded to include Palm Sunday, following the model of early Jerusalem pilgrims. In Jerusalem in the 380's, Christians, according to Egeria in her travel diary entitled "Travels of Egeria", began the Holy Week with a procession on Palm Sunday afternoon. Children carried branches and the bishop reenacted Christ's entry into Jerusalem, leading the crowd from the Mount of Olives to the city centre. From Monday to Wednesday during Holy Week, they had daily services which included special scripture readings at the Martyrium and a final blessing at the Anastasis (Church of the Resurrection). On Holy Thursday, they celebrated two separate Eucharists, one in the morning and the other in the evening, to commemorate the Last Supper, followed by a procession to Gethsemane. On Good Friday, the Veneration of the Cross solemnly took place at Golgotha. The bishop was seen seated with a box containing the sacred relic, and the faithful, including catechumens, came forward to kiss it.

As per generations of our Christian brothers and sisters before us, we commence Holy Week with our Palm Sunday celebration, recalling the event of the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem as Matthew recounts in his Gospel. This is followed by the narration of the Passion, also from Matthew, taking us deeper and deeper into Jesus' Passion and death. It starts with the deal between Judas and the Chief priests to betray Jesus and ends with the sealing of Jesus' sepulcher guarded by a sentry – as found only in Matthew's Gospel. Here Matthew aims to portray Jesus as the Messianic King and obedient Son of God who fulfills Old Testament prophecies. He places emphasis on the intentionality of Jesus' sacrifice, the failure of his disciples, and the dramatic supernatural signs accompanying his death. Matthew also pays attention to Jesus' humanity by recounting Jesus' rather human response in time of fear, sorrow and distress. For instance, He asked his Father to spare him of the bitter cup but was determined to let God's will done. Let us ask Jesus to keep us close to him both in good times and in bad, pray that the grace from this Eucharist of Palm Sunday will give us the strength we need to drink the bitter cup of troubles and hardships we might have to face in our everyday lives.

Have a trust-filled week.

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

WHY DO WE COVER THE STATUES IN THE CHURCH DURING LENT?

Because we continue a tradition known as "veiling" or "shrouding marking the beginning of the last two weeks of Lent starting from the Fifth Sunday of Lent till the Easter Vigil, also known as "Passion Week" or "Passiontide," which focuses on the Passion of Christ. The veiling is a symbolic act of humility and a way to heighten the focus on Christ's suffering and death, preparing the faithful for the celebration of Easter. The tradition of veiling is rooted in the Gospel readings of Passion Sunday, which formerly included John 8:46-59, where Jesus hides himself from the crowd who wanted to stone him.

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOX

Thank you for supporting our Caritas Project Compassion for 2026. It would be appreciated if you could return your Project Compassion boxes as soon as possible.

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

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

HOLY THURSDAY MORNING MASS

There will be no 9am Morning Mass on Holy Thursday, it will be at 7.30pm for Mass of the Last Supper. Tuesday and Wednesday morning Masses will remain the same at 8am.

DAY LIGHT SAVING END 5TH APRIL

A reminder that daylight saving ends next Sunday the 5th of April. Please ensure you place your clocks backward 1 hour.



More Parish news continued overpage...

PARISH NEWS CONTINUED...

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.

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@lolol7hills.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.

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.

CHRIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

Please note that Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group will meet next Wednesday 31st of March at 9am, instead of Thursday due to Holy Week.

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.

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.



CONFIRMATION 2026 INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents wishing to enrol their Year 6 (or above) child in the 2026 Confirmation Process, are invited to attend an information and enrolment meeting on Wednesday 29th of April at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.

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 Agaña 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

Vinnies Frederic Ozanam Mass & Commissioning: 30 April

Vincentian members and staff are invited for a special Mass and the commissioning of Central Council President Leon Ross, celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long. Thursday, 30th April at 12:30 pm, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Mass will be followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall. **RSVP by Friday, 24 April** to Earnest Henry: 0466 564 022 or Earnest.Henry@vinnies.org.au

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.

Yard Maintenance role Wanted for House of Welcome Volunteer role

House of Welcome is seeking a volunteer for general yard maintenance (lawn mowing, whipper snipper, weeding, pruning) in South Granville on a weekly basis. House of Welcome provides personalised support for people seeking asylum and refugees. Through transitional housing, trauma-informed casework, employment assistance, emergency support, and advocacy, we meet essential needs and help empower our clients to rebuild their lives. More information contact Jacqui Clark: J.clark@houseofwelcome.org.au

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.

Photography

Photos may be taken of you whilst volunteering. If you do not wish your photo to be used, please inform the person taking the photo or through the Parish Office. Permission from a child's parent/guardian must be sought before taking any photographs of children.

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

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy proclaims the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus (cf. Jn 11:1-45). In the Lenten journey, this is a sign that speaks of Christ's victory over death and of the gift of eternal life, which we receive through Baptism (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1265). Today Jesus also says to us, as he did to Martha, Lazarus's sister: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (Jn 11:25-26). The liturgy thus invites us, in light of the fact that Holy Week is drawing near, to relive the events of the Lord's Passion — the entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the trial, the crucifixion, the burial — so that we may grasp their most authentic meaning and open ourselves to the gift of grace they contain. These events are fulfilled in the risen Christ, who has conquered death and lives within us through Baptism, for our salvation and the fullness of life.

His grace illumines this world, which seems to constantly search for novelty and change, even at the cost of sacrificing important things — time, energy, values, affections — as if fame, material goods, entertainment and fleeting relationships could fill our hearts or make us immortal. It is a symptom of a longing for the infinite that each of us carries within us, a need that cannot be satisfied by passing things. Nothing finite can quench our inner thirst, for we are made for God, and we find no peace until we rest in him (cf. Confessions, I, 1.1).

The account of the resurrection of Lazarus, then, invites us to listen to this profound need and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to free our hearts from habits, conditioning and ways of thinking which, like boulders, shut us away in the tomb of selfishness, materialism, violence and superficiality. In these places there is no life, but only confusion, dissatisfaction and loneliness.

Jesus also cries out to us: "Come out!" (Jn 11:43), urging us to emerge from these cramped spaces, renewed by his grace, to walk in the light of love, as new women and men, capable of hoping and loving, without calculation and without measure, according to the model of his infinite charity. May the Virgin Mary help us to live these holy days with her faith, her trust and her fidelity, so that the glorious experience of encountering her risen Son may be renewed in us each day.

After the Angelus:

With dismay I continue to follow the situation in the Middle East, which like other regions of the world is torn apart by war and violence. We cannot remain silent in the face of the suffering of so many defenseless people who are victims of these conflicts. What hurts them hurts all of humanity. The death and pain caused by these wars is a scandal for the entire human family and a cry that rises to God! I strongly renew my appeal to persevere in prayer, so that hostilities may cease and paths to peace may finally open up, based on sincere dialogue and respect for the dignity of every human person.

Today the Rome Marathon is taking place, with countless athletes from all over the world. This is a sign of hope! May sport pave the way for peace, social inclusion, and spirituality. I extend my heartfelt greetings to all of you, Romans and pilgrims from various countries, especially those who have come from the Diocese of Córdoba in Spain.

I joyfully welcome the faithful from Belluno and Pordenone, from Crotona and from the parish of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Rome. I greet the young people from Nave, the Diocese of Brescia, the group of Confirmation candidates from the Diocese of Florence and the representatives of the Associazione Direttori di Albergo.

I wish everyone a happy Sunday!



POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY ON PALM SUNDAY 2023

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (*Mt 27:46*). This is the cry that today's liturgy has us repeat in the responsorial psalm (cf. *Ps 22:2*), the only cry that Jesus makes from the cross in the Gospel we have heard. Those words bring us to the very heart of Christ's passion, the culmination of the sufferings he endured for our salvation. "Why have you forsaken me?"

The sufferings of Jesus were many, and whenever we listen to the account of the Passion, they pierce our hearts. There were *sufferings of the body*: let us think of the slaps and beatings, the flogging and the crowning with thorns, and in the end, the cruelty of the crucifixion. There were also *sufferings of the soul*: the betrayal of Judas, the denials of Peter, the condemnation of the religious and civil authorities, the mockery of the guards, the jeering at the foot of the cross, the rejection of the crowd, utter failure and the flight of the disciples. Yet, amid all these sorrows, Jesus remained certain of one thing: the closeness of the Father. Now, however, the unthinkable has taken place. Before dying, he cries out: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" The forsakenness of Jesus.

This is the most searing of all sufferings, *the suffering of the spirit*. At his most tragic hour, Jesus experiences abandonment by God. Prior to that moment, he had never called the Father by his generic name, "God". To convey the impact of this, the Gospel also reports his words in Aramaic. These are the only words of Jesus from the cross that have come down to us in the original language. The real event is the extreme abasement, being forsaken by the Father, forsaken by God. We find it hard even to grasp what great suffering he embraced out of love for us. He sees the gates of heaven close, he finds himself at the bitter edge, the shipwreck of life, the collapse of certainty. And he cries out: "Why?" A "why" that embraces every other "why" ever spoken. "Why, God?"

"*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" In the Bible, the word "forsake" is powerful. We hear it at moments of extreme pain: love that fails, or is rejected or betrayed; children who are rejected and aborted; situations of repudiation, the lot of widows and orphans; broken marriages, forms of social exclusion, injustice and oppression; the solitude of sickness. In a word, in the drastic severing of the bonds that unite us to others. There, this word is spoken: "abandonment". Christ brought all of this to the cross; upon his shoulders, he bore the sins of the world. And at the supreme moment, Jesus, the only-begotten, beloved Son of the Father, experienced a situation utterly alien to his very being: abandonment, the distance of God.

Why did it have to come to this? *He did it for us*. There is no other answer. For us. Brothers and sisters, today this is not merely a show. Every one of us, hearing of Jesus' abandonment, can say: *for me*. This abandonment is the price he paid for me. He became one with each of us in order to be completely and definitively one with us *to the very end*. He experienced abandonment in order not to leave us prey to despair, in order to stay at our side forever. He did this for me, for you, because whenever you or I or anyone else seems pinned to the wall, lost in a blind alley, plunged into the abyss of abandonment, sucked into a whirlwind of so many "whys" without an answer, there can still be a hope: Jesus himself, for you, for me. It is not the end, because Jesus was there and even now, he is at your side. He endured the distance of abandonment in order to take up into his love every possible distance that we can feel. So that each of us might say: in my failings, and each of us has failed many times, in my desolation, whenever I feel betrayed or betrayed others, whenever I feel cast aside or have cast aside others, whenever I feel forsaken or have abandoned others, let us think of Jesus, who was abandoned, betrayed and cast aside. There, we find him. When I feel lost and confused, when I feel that I can't go on, he is beside me. Amid all my unanswered questions "why...?", he is there.

That is how the Lord saves us, from within our questioning "why?" From within that questioning, he opens the horizon of hope that does not disappoint. On the cross, even as he felt utter abandonment – this is the ultimate end – Jesus refused to yield to despair; instead, he prayed and trusted. He cried out his "why?" in the words of the Psalm (22:2), and commended himself into the hands of the Father, despite how distant he felt him to be (cf. *Lk 23:46*) or rather, whom he did not feel, for instead he felt himself abandoned. In the hour of his abandonment, Jesus continued to trust. At the hour of abandonment, he continued to love his disciples who had fled, leaving him alone. In his abandonment he forgave those who crucified him (v. 34). Here we see the abyss of our many evils immersed in a greater love, with the result that our isolation becomes fellowship.

Brothers and sisters, a love like this, embracing us totally and to the very end, the love of Jesus, can turn our stony hearts into hearts of flesh. His is a love of mercy, tenderness and compassion. This is God's style: closeness, compassion and tenderness. God is like this. Christ, in his abandonment, stirs us to seek him and to love him and those who are themselves abandoned. For in them we see not only people in need, but Jesus himself, abandoned: Jesus, who saved us by descending to the depths of our human condition. He is with each of them, abandoned even to death... I think of the German so-called "street person", who died under the colonnade, alone and abandoned. He is Jesus for each of us. So many need our closeness, so many are abandoned. I too need Jesus to caress me and draw close to me, and for this reason I go to find him in the abandoned, in the lonely. He wants us to care for our brothers and sisters who resemble him most, those experiencing extreme suffering and solitude. Today, dear brothers and sisters, their numbers are legion. Entire peoples are exploited and abandoned; the poor live on our streets and we look the other way; there are migrants who are no longer faces but numbers; there are prisoners who are disowned; people written off as problems. Countless other abandoned persons are in our midst, invisible, hidden, discarded with white gloves: unborn children, the elderly who live alone: they could perhaps be your father or mother, your grandfather or grandmother, left alone in retirement homes, the sick whom no one visits, the disabled who are ignored, and the young burdened by great interior emptiness, with no one prepared to listen to their cry of pain. And they find no path other than suicide. The abandoned of our day. The "Christs" of our day.

Jesus, in his abandonment, asks us to open our eyes and hearts to all who find themselves abandoned. For us, as disciples of the "forsaken" Lord, no man, woman or child can be regarded as an outcast, no one left to himself or herself. Let us remember that the rejected and the excluded are living icons of Christ: they remind us of his reckless love, his forsakenness that delivers us from every form of loneliness and isolation. Brothers and sisters, today let us implore this grace: to love Jesus in his abandonment and to love Jesus in the abandoned all around us. Let us ask for the grace to see and acknowledge the Lord who continues to cry out in them. May we not allow his voice to go unheard amid the deafening silence of indifference. God has not left us alone; let us care, then, for those who feel alone and abandoned. Then, and only then, will we be of one mind and heart with the one who, for our sake, "emptied himself" (*Phil 2:7*). He emptied himself completely for us.

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 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 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

31	Parish Reconciliation 2nd Rite	7.30pm
31	Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group	9.00am
2	Last Day of School Term 2	
10	Fr Henry's Birthday	

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

28/29 March

Acolytes	Vigil: Derrick Soares 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: Volunteer, Volunteer 8am: J. Cabasa, P. Ferriols 9.30am: C. Diaz, R. Saldanha	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Jessica & Joshua Jeganathan, G. George 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	

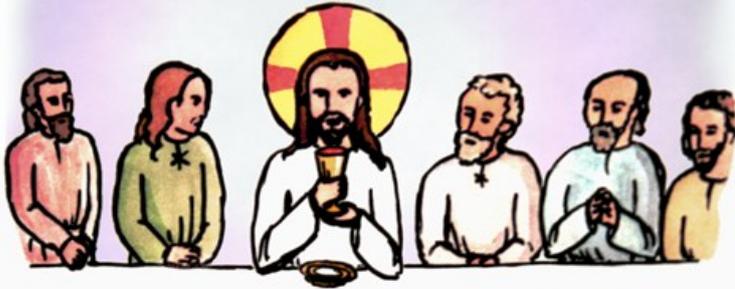
4/5 April

Acolytes	Vigil: <i>Easter Roster</i> 8am: Jerome Irudayaraj 9.30am: Rommel Lagare	
Ministers	Vigil: <i>Easter Roster</i> 8am: A.McNally, M.Santos 9.30am: C.Brooks, P.Gow	
Readers	Vigil: <i>Easter Roster</i> 8am: K.Walker, B. Motha 9.30am: R.Graham Nigli, N. Arambulo	
Altar Servers	Vigil: <i>Easter Roster</i> 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: K.Cassaniti, A.Faulkner-Dhiman	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Young Adults Group	
Musicians	Vigil: Maximilian Chorale 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	11 April	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera Aman Rawah
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon Kathy Chamberlain	

The Kids' Bulletin

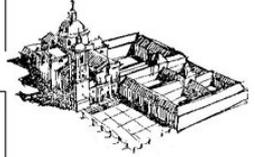
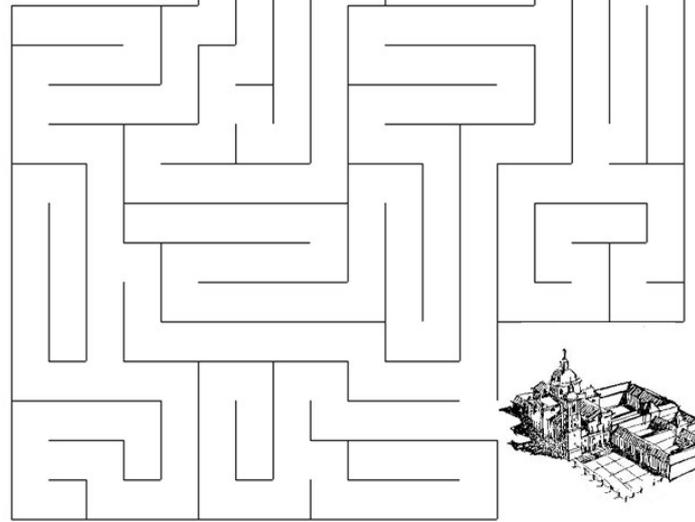
Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday
March 29th, 2026

TAHBICSDIESFMGYHBILJ
OKOLDMONFOTPHQERNS
ETWUCWOXVYEZNAABNCT
DWEHFIGCHHIWJIKLLLM
BNEOSPHQERDSFTOURV
MWAXNYYZ



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6

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2

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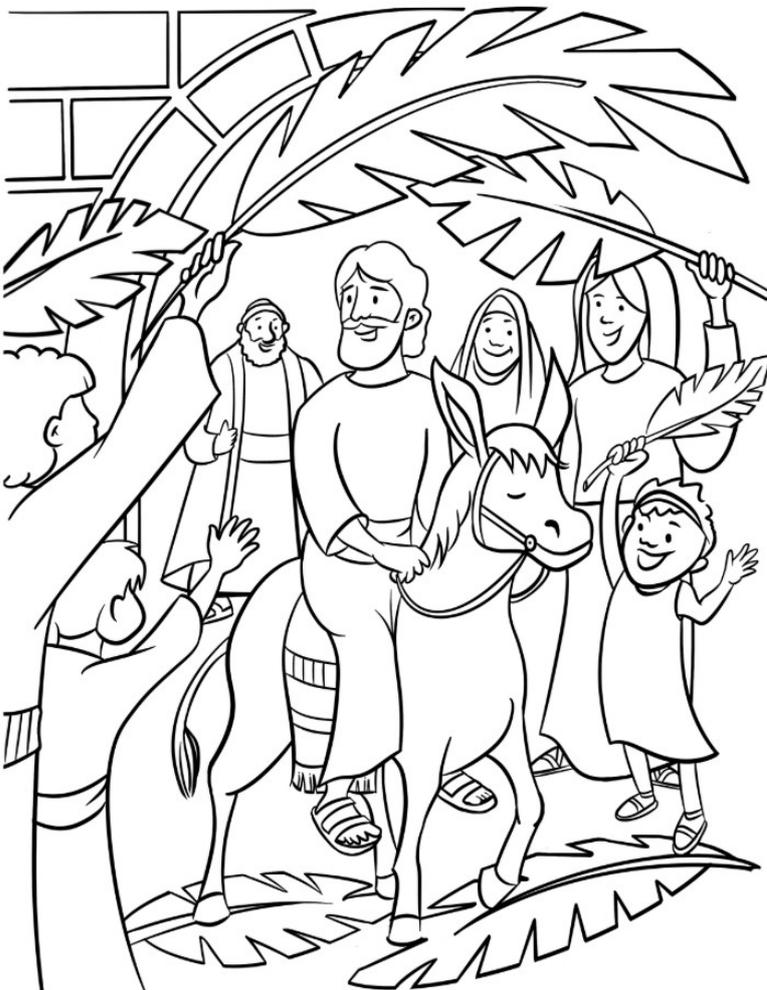
5

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted "_____ to the Son of David!" Matthew 21:9a (NIV)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Luke 19:38 (NIV)



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

BLESSED	MIRACLES	HIGHEST	HEAVEN	CROWD
SPREAD	GLORY	PRAISE	VILLAGE	PEOPLE
DISCIPLES	CLOAKS	VOICES	LORD	PEACE
NAME	ROAD	JESUS	HILL	COLT