

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@lol7hills.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 July 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Baptism:	26 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/

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 26 April 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, Mary Cortis, Pandora Crew, Lucretia Deang, 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, Yvo Periera, Michelle Pellicano, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tipaldo, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, Vivian Tomines, Sakalia Ameto Vili, Chris Wikkramatilake, 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: Salvatore Marra, Roger Ampo, Ma. Romina Palmos Austria, Maria Coleiro, Gerald Fernandes, Gerry Fernandes, William "Bill" Gregory, Kay Hotschilt, Vincent Jayapala, Antonia Murazzo, James Muscat, Mary Josephine Fernandopulle, Roselyne & Erwin Schullter, Dammita Soza, Jessie Zammit.

Anniversaries: Astrid Abeleda, Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, Lourdes Apalisok, Cristina Apolinario, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, Elvina Barnaba, Grech Charlie, Saro Chary, Joseph Chary, Maria Dalgado, Samuel Doraisamy, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Monte Franco, Agostino Fantin, Jean, Karl, Elsie, Coervais Garrick, Zoltan Gartner, Manuel Jacob Gomez, Elizabeth Jean Hancock, John Harriss, Kathleen Harriss, Mary Holmgren, Leonie Jordan, Michael Kolosa, Pietro Marra, Anton Motha, Albert Moroney, Irene Moroney, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Charles Muscat, Jason Muscat, Jacintha Noronha, John O'Sullivan, Marcel Spetter, Sem Serna, Ben Wijitr Benjabutr, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Felix & Andreanna Muscat, Jane Zammit.

Remembrance: France Angseesing, Frank & Fortunata Baiada, Antonio, Amelia & Germana Bertimato, Sam Borg, Peter & Antonio, Frank, Maurice & Joseph Camenzuli and Camenzuli Family, Joseph, Lim Cho, Myrna Cruz, 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 & Lancer De Guire, Edmundo Deloso, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Jerome Fernandes, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Evangeline & Leandro Garcia Snr, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Zoltan Gartner, Francisco Giusa, Salatori Giogio, Selvam Irudayaraj, Vincent, Rita, Glen & Ian Jayapala, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Rosine Lafleur, Mangion & Cini Family, Tessie & Andy Mangine, Maureen & John Mead, Pauline Meilak, Sashin Patrick Manamperi, Joseph & Doris Mifsud, Mary Mifsud, William & Emelia Mifsud, Bertu, Albert, Paul, Louis, Stephen & Joseph Mula and Mula Family, Lourda Motha, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Falzon & Muscat families, Cole Ngan, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, John Portelli, Eustace Ratnam, Jose & Maria Reyes, John & Roseline Ratnam, John Spiteri, Joseph Tanti, 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 Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit (R.)</p> <p>2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)</p> | <p>3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)</p> <p>4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)</p> |
|--|---|

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:17-21*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 10:1-10*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

One of my cousins has been a staunch fan of the current president of the USA as I happened to find out when we accidentally talked about American politics at a family gathering – something I should have avoided in the first place. He praised the man as a devout Christian, displaying the Bible in public and making pro-Christian statements at meetings. It didn't turn out too bad at the end, because I chose to keep quiet. The only comment I made was to remind him not to judge people by what they say, rather by how they conduct their private lives. I continued to remain quiet despite his efforts to defend his idol. Unfortunately, this same man recently went on the offensive against Pope Leo XIV by calling him 'weak on crime and terrible on Foreign policy,' and other things due to the papal call for peace in Iran. As a result, he has faced backlash from every corner of the globe, for such a miscalculated attack on the Holy Father.

This story reminds us of the warning presented by Jesus in the Gospel today, regarding those he called thieves and brigands who somehow infiltrated the leadership of the sheepfold with the intention 'to steal and kill and destroy', rather than to enrich it. On the other hand, the one who enters through the gate, is Jesus Himself. He will lead the sheep to find pasture, and the sheep heed his voice. Today, more than ever, we live in a world filled with thieves and brigands pretending to be good shepherds by displaying the Bible or proclaiming pro-Christian messages. But their conduct bears no Christian values, and we ought to be vigilant of these false prophets. And instead, pay attention to Jesus' true shepherds who continue to preach the message of peace, love and reconciliation both through their words and exemplary lives. Let us ask the Lord for his grace to support us in our ongoing discernment to distinguish between the true shepherds and false prophets in our world, so that we can make the right decision to embrace the true shepherds and have the courage to challenge the opposite.

We also pray for Pope Leo XIV, chosen to lead our Universal Church, that he will always have the strength and courage to lead us along the path of love and truth no matter what. We also pray for Pope Francis on the occasion of his first death anniversary recently. His papacy inspired both the Church and the world, both in our care for the poor and the environment and our endless need to discern and engage into dialogues for mutual understanding.

Have a truth-oriented week ,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

There will be 41 children in our parish who will to make their First Reconciliation on Tuesday 28 April, please keep them in your prayers and don't forget to sign in their Prayer cards.

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.

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.

NEW ALTAR SERVER RECRUITMENT

All children who made their First Holy Communion last year (2025) and previously, are invited to serve as Altar Servers during mass. Parents are encouraged to:

- (1) Obtain a form to sign and place it in the Communication box at the rear of the church;
- (2) Bring their child/children to a **training session after the 9.30AM Mass** on the feast of the **Ascension on Sunday 17 May** and the **Installation Mass at 9.30AM** on **Pentecost Sunday 24 May**.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE SEPTEMBER 2026

Those interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar, the next intake for Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will be in September. Enrolment forms are at the back sacristy.

HALL CANOPY UPDATE

The next stage of construction will commence on Monday 11 May with the installation of the steel columns. This will be followed by the installation of the roof from Monday 18 May. Both installations are expected to take approximately 3-4 days, during which our upper carpark will be closed. Consequently, our weekday Mass attendees will need to park their vehicles in the lower carpark and walk to the Church. We look forward to your cooperation and apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time.

PLEDGE BOOK FOR HALL CANOPY PLAQUE

Thank you to those who signed the Pledge Book for the Hall Canopy Plaque, and for those who wish to sign, this book is located at the Baptismal font. Please register your name, phone number and accurate details on the plaque of 25 letters or less. A leaflet is also available for all to take home to further explain the Plaque Fundraising program.

PLAQUE PAYMENT

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

Banking details below:

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 000552

REF: (your surname) PLAQUE

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

More Parish news continued overpage...

PARISH NEWS CONTINUED...

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.

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.

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.

OLOL FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT (FGM)

The "Divine Fellowship" group will meet on Monday 27-April at 8:30am, for a hike around Prospect Reservoir followed by a picnic. The FGM groups "Divine Fellowship" and "Joyful Journey", will jointly host morning tea on Sunday 3-May. All are welcome. Please contact Edward Pieris, Frank Paiva or the parish office for more info on FGM and upcoming events.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember that we are all responsible for our House of God at Seven Hills. When using the Church's equipment we ask that they be returned back to their correct spot, take care when opening/closing windows and by not bringing any food into the church, that includes the crying room. Parents are encouraged to bring soft toys and pencils for children to work with our weekly bulletin. We kindly ask parents to please monitor your children near the candles at all times.

CANDLE WAX ON THE CHURCH CARPET

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

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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

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

Music Workshop 'Exploring Music for the Solemnities': 5 May

Musicians throughout the Parramatta Diocese and beyond are invited to attend this workshop led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella. On Tuesday 5 May to the Bishop Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown, the workshop will outline suggested hymns and explore music new and old for the many Solemnities and Feasts that occur in the period of Eastertide. Please RSVP by 1 May <https://parracatholic.org/events/music-workshop-exploring-music-for-the-solemnities>. Further enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 12 May

All liturgical ministers – readers, servers, extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at 7:30pm on 12 May 2026, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Liturgical ministers are asked to please arrive by 7pm and be seated by 7:15pm. To register the number of guests and ministers attending please register by Thursday, 7th May. To register please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Ministry of Care courses: 3-24 June

Those who visit the sick and are involved in the Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying in Hospitals, Aged Care Facilities and in Homes are invited to attend this course on the Ministry of Care. The course will take place every Wednesday in June at 7pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Please register via parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for May 2026

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 2 May at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For further information, email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

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 RECALLS POPE FRANCIS' LEGACY OF GENEROSITY AND MERCY FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Aboard the flight from Angola to Equatorial Guinea, Pope Leo XIV recalls his predecessor Pope Francis on the first anniversary of his death, saying the late Pope "gave so much through his life and his closeness to the poor."

By Salvatore Cernuzio – Aboard papal plane

"On this first anniversary of his death, I would like to remember Pope Francis, who left so much, who gave so much to the Church through his life, his witness, his words, and his gestures. He did so by truly living closeness to the poorest, to the least, to the sick, to children, and to the elderly." Pope Leo XIV offered those words about his predecessor to journalists as he flew from Angola to Equatorial Guinea, which marks the final leg of his Apostolic Journey to Africa. The flight came on the first anniversary of the death of Pope Francis, who passed away at dawn on April 21, 2025. The anniversary is being marked by the Church throughout the world.

Promotion of fraternity

Pope Leo offered words filled with affection and gratitude for the late Pope Francis, who "left so much to the Church through his witness and his words." Recalling many aspects of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Leo XIV first pointed out his tireless exhortation to "universal fraternity." Pope Francis, he said, truly sought to "promote authentic respect for all men and all women, promoting a spirit of fraternity, of being brothers and sisters, all of us, and of seeking how to live the message we find in the Gospel."

Message of mercy

He also recalled Pope Francis' message of mercy, which the Argentine Pope expressed from his first Angelus on the Sunday after his election on March 13, 2013. Pope Francis spoke about mercy "that first time at the Angelus, but also at the Holy Mass he celebrated before the inauguration of his pontificate on March 17, 2013." Pope Leo recalled that, in the Vatican parish of St. Anne, Pope Francis "preached on the woman caught in adultery" and "spoke from the heart of God's mercy, from the heart of this great love, of forgiveness and of the Lord's generous expression of mercy." Pope Francis wanted to share this "spirit" "with the whole Church," Pope Leo continued, recalling the "beautiful celebration of an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy."

A gift for all

"Let us pray that he is already enjoying the Lord's mercy," Pope Leo XIV concluded. "Let us thank the Lord for the great gift of Francis' life to the whole Church and to the whole world."

POPE LEO ENCOURAGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO BEAR WITNESS TO CHRIST WITH COURAGE AND JOY

To the young people and families gathered at the Bata Stadium, Leo XIV, responding one by one to the testimonies presented for reflection, spoke about the value of effort and discipline in life and dignified work, the challenges faced by women in the workplace, the happiness found in giving oneself to God, and the exciting mission of being spouses and parents. *By Alina Tufani Díaz*

Music, songs, colors, smiles, and joy filled the Bata Stadium, which has a capacity of more than 30,000 people and was packed with young people and families, seminarians, priests, and the faithful of Bata, who gave the Pope a "warm welcome." In thanking them for such affection, the Pope recalled the motto of the visit to Equatorial Guinea—"Christ, Light of Equatorial Guinea, toward a future of hope"—and assured them that "the brightest light here is the one that shines in your eyes, on your faces, in your smiles, and through your songs," all bearing witness that "Christ is the joy, meaning, inspiration, and beauty of our lives."

The culture of effort

The Pope's address, preceded by a welcome from the Apostolic Administrator of Bata, Bishop Miguel Ángel Nguema Bee, followed a series of testimonies that served as the guiding thread of his reflection. It began with Alicia, who spoke about the importance of being faithful to our duties and contributing, through daily work, to the good of the family and society. "She shared with us her dream of a land "where young people, men and women, do not seek easy success, but choose the culture of effort, discipline and hard work — a land where this is valued." She said that being Christian means not only participating in the Eucharistic celebration, but also working with dignity and treating everyone with respect. She also spoke about the challenges women face in the workplace."

Following the Lord, you will receive "a hundredfold"

Then came the Pope's response to seminarian Francisco Martín, who, speaking of his vocational calling, shared not only the joy of opening his life wide to God but also the struggles before saying his "yes," which he embraced with joy and deep serenity. "A life given to God is one of happiness, but it must be renewed each day through prayer, the sacraments and time spent with the brothers and sisters whom the Lord places along our path. In the communion of hearts and in acts of kindness toward those in need, the miracles of charity are continually renewed. So, if you feel that Christ is calling you to follow him in a path of special consecration — as priests, religious sisters, or religious brothers, catechists — do not be afraid to follow in his footsteps."

The family: fertile ground for human and Christian growth

To the families present, the example of Purificación and Jaime Antonio served as a reminder that, by trusting in God, their families can grow in unity, welcoming life as a gift to be protected and educated for an encounter with the Lord. "Being spouses and parents is an exciting mission — a covenant to be lived day by day. Within this covenant, you will continually rediscover one another as you cooperate with God in the miracle of life and in building happiness for yourselves and for your children. Be prepared to embrace this calling as a journey of true love that grows in freedom; as a journey of hope, born from the knowledge that God will never abandon you; and as journey of holiness, in which you always seek the good and happiness of others."

Respect for life that is born and grows

Finally, the Pope thanked the "sincerity and courage" of a 13-year-old boy, the son of a single mother abandoned by his father, whose words should encourage us to build a better world, based on respect for life that is born and grows. We are called to cultivate, live, and bear witness to life despite sacrifices, judgments, prejudices, and stereotypes that seek to diminish its value. "Victor Antonio has reminded us that welcoming life requires love, commitment and care. These words, spoken by a young person, should lead us to reflect seriously on the importance of protecting and safeguarding the family and the values learned within it."

POPE FRANCIS REVEALED: HIS FINAL DAYS, INTIMATE FRIENDS AND A LEGACY TO KEEP

By Camillo Barone

Right after his death on April 21, 2025, everything that had belonged to Pope Francis was packed, in a matter of a couple of hours, into several specially sealed boxes, under the careful supervision of his closest collaborators. The situation was dictated by the practical need to clear out Casa Santa Marta, the Vatican building that has always existed as a kind of guesthouse to accommodate the cardinals participating in a conclave. In those days, there was a constant flurry with people doing repainting, cleaning and renovation work. And yet, amid the hurried clearing of rooms one detail lingered. As Vatican News journalist Salvatore Cernuzio tells it in his new book: "I was told that, during the general reordering, a photograph of me — with my wife and my children — was found in the pope's study." The image, taken during a Christmas trip to Assisi, Italy, had been donated to Francis and placed by him beneath a statue of St. Joseph, among the "cases" he entrusted to prayer every night. "So that he may pray for us." "I always pray for you. You must do the same for me," Francis had told him repeatedly.

That small, intimate scene — part memory, part revelation — captures the essence of *Padre: An Untold Portrait of Pope Francis*, Cernuzio's book, published April 7, that in two weeks, climbed Italian bestseller lists. Neither a traditional biography nor a strictly journalistic account, *Padre* unfolds as something closer to a personal testimony, a narrative built from proximity, trust and the unusual, intimate relationship between its author and the late pope. "Even now I still ask myself why I did it," Cernuzio said of his decision to write the book, after years spent covering the Vatican for official media and now continuing his work under Pope Leo XIV. Cernuzio said that he felt it "could be something good — not to add anything to what people already know, namely how extraordinary this pope was. The only added value is the fact that I truly experienced unique situations." Those "unique situations" form the backbone of his book. Cernuzio's relationship with the pope began almost by accident — on a papal flight to Iraq in 2021, when the young journalist handed Francis a letter. Months later, he received an unexpected phone call: "Good morning, this is Pope Francis." From there, a connection developed of regular conversations, emails, invitations and even gifts for Cernuzio's four children. "I had nothing written down, but everything was engraved in my heart," he told the National Catholic Reporter.

The impulse to write came later, prompted by a colleague's suggestion: "In time you'll grow old and forget, but you'll have to tell it to your children." At its core, his book is a portrait of Francis who appears deeply engaged with the crises of his time. It also reveals how, in the final months of his life, the pope considered a series of symbolic and physically demanding journeys: to the Gaza Strip, where he had been calling the only local Catholic parish every evening during the bombings; to Cutro, in southern Italy, to honor dozens of migrants who died at sea; to Cape Verde and the Canary Islands, to confront firsthand the realities of migration. At one point, Cernuzio revealed, Francis even entertained the idea of a solo diplomatic mission between Moscow and Kyiv, Ukraine, hoping — despite his age and declining health — to act as a mediator capable of ending the war. These ambitions, as Cernuzio presented them, were not political calculations so much as extensions of a pastoral instinct. The same instinct that led Francis to maintain a nightly phone call with a small parish under bombardment, or to express a desire to spend Christmas "under any conditions" among its congregation. It was, in the author's words, part of a broader vision: "the importance of opening up and engaging in dialogue with the world and with uncomfortable realities."

But *Padre* is also equally concerned with the pope's everyday humanity. The anecdotes scattered throughout its pages — many of them drawn from moments the author witnessed firsthand — reveal a man at ease with humor and contradiction, such as Francis teasing heads of government, the pope watching viral clips and laughing, or rolling down a car window in Rome's busy traffic at a traffic light just to greet surprised strangers. "He met so many people, spoke with everyone and opened his doors many times — perhaps even too many," Cernuzio said. "I myself thought I was just one of many. But I realized that I had actually lived something unique: experiencing him almost daily, the kindness of his gestures, his phone calls, his gifts. And above all, having a truly personal relationship that went beyond work."

That relationship also extended into the author's family life. Cernuzio's children, for instance, grew up with a pope who was a recurring presence. "For them, a pope calling the house during dinner to ask how we were doing was something normal," he said. "My eldest son once used as an excuse at school that he hadn't done his homework because he was going to see the pope," he said. The normalization of the extraordinary is one of the book's quiet themes. It surfaces again in a small but telling detail: the absence, after Francis' death, of the chocolate Easter eggs he used to send Cernuzio for his children. The emotional center of *Padre* lies in its final chapters, where the narrative narrows to the last encounters between the journalist and the pope. Cernuzio was among the very few secretly admitted to Francis' private apartment after his final hospitalization. "We often said, '*Ti voglio bene*,' " which is an exquisitely Italian expression close to "I love you" but used in friendship contexts, "and that was the last thing I said to him," Cernuzio recalled. The next day, Cernuzio accompanied the pope on what would be his final visit to a prison, on Holy Thursday. Four days later came the end. The book does not attempt to redefine Francis' legacy in doctrinal or institutional terms. Instead, it reframes it through lived experience, suggesting that the essence of his pontificate might be found as much in private gestures as in public acts. "I believe that what has not been understood at all about Francis' pontificate is its prophetic nature," Cernuzio said. "He has been described in every possible way. ... I think the only truly valid label is that he was prophetic."

For the author, that prophecy was expressed in choices — whom to meet, where to go, what risks to consider — and in a consistent emphasis on human connection over ideological alignment. The success of *Padre* has not unfolded in isolation. In these same weeks, another Italian volume has entered the public conversation, offering a different but complementary way of reflecting on Francis' legacy. *Reactivating Pope Francis*, edited by Italian theologians Piotr Zygulski, Andrea Bosio and Lucandrea Massaro, gathers the voices of 40 theologians, intellectuals, scholars and church leaders from around the world — prominent authors and theologians such as Massimo Faggioli, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, Gilles Routhier, Jesuit Fr. James Martin and Jesuit Fr. Antonio Spadaro, but also young religion teachers.

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 14th May 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.

April 2026		
28	First Reconciliation Liturgy	7.00pm
29	Confirmation 2026 Meeting (1)	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

25/26 APRIL

Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Ernie Gartner 9.30am: Rommel Lagare	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, M. Mifsud 8am: J. Irudayaraj, F. Paiva 9.30am: P. Gow, Volunteer	
Readers	Vigil: A. Pushparajan, A. Punch 8am: J. Sarmiento, T. Perak 9.30am: M. Aquino, J. Nonato	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Saoirse Costello, Sebastian Costello, Leonardo Costello 8am: J. Blackshaw 9.30am: C. Attard, L. Sadipoor, C. Smith	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's group	
Flowers	Annette & Sijani	
Church Cleaning	7 May	Lourdes Spiteri Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: J. Deloso, R. Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: E. Barcelon, K. Chamberlain	

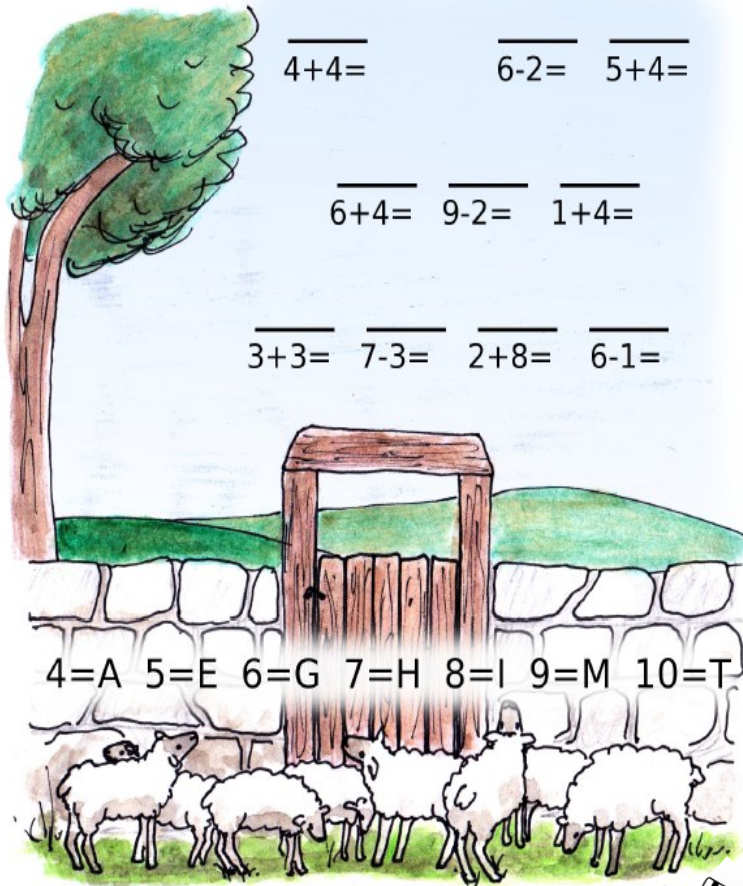
2/3 MAY

Acolytes	Vigil: Abdel Do Rosario 8am: Frank Paiva 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Franco, N Shami 8am: J. Mai, M. Santos 9.30am: A Hye Rin Han, E. Miu	
Readers	Vigil: N. Do Rosario, B. Motha 8am: P. Ferriols, K. Walker 9.30am: R. Epondulan, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. Bagatella, O. Martinez, J. Martinez 8am: C. Bellamin 9.30am: A. Faulkner-Dhiman, J. Steele, H. Winter	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Family Groups—"Divine Fellowship" / "Joyful Journey"	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Couples for Christ	
Flowers	Fenty & Liz	
Church Cleaning	21 May	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: G. Basili, R. G. Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26th, 2026



$$\overline{4+4=}$$

$$\overline{6-2=}$$

$$\overline{5+4=}$$

$$\overline{6+4=}$$

$$\overline{9-2=}$$

$$\overline{1+4=}$$

$$\overline{3+3=}$$

$$\overline{7-3=}$$

$$\overline{2+8=}$$

$$\overline{6-1=}$$

4=A 5=E 6=G 7=H 8=I 9=M 10=T

What did Jesus say about the sheepfold?
Figure out the math questions
and then fill in the blanks
with the letters the numbers represent.



Shepherd

