

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:	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/

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 12 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, Pandora Crew, 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, 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: Roger Ampo, Ma. Romina Palmos Austria, Maria Coleiro, Gerald Fernandes, William "Bill" Gregory, Kay Hotschilt, Vincent Jayapala, Antonia Murazzo, James Muscat, Dammita Soza, Jessie Zammit.

Anniversaries: Astrid Abeleda, Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, Lourdes Apalisok, Cristina Apolinario, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, Elvina Barnaba, Saro Chary, Joseph Chary, Maria Dalgado, Samuel Doraisamy, Blaise Costa, Mary Camenzuli, Rita de Silva, M.A Fernando, Rienzie Fernando, Monte Franco, Agostino Fantin, Zoltan Gartner, Manuel Jacob Gomez, John Harriss, Kathleen Harriss, Leonie Jordan, Michael Kolosa, Pietro Marra, A. Mansoor, Anton Motha, 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 & Andreaanna Muscat.

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, Mogens 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, Joseph & Carmena Formosa, Evangeline & Leandro Garcia Snr, Jose Garcia, Mario & Joe Gat, Francisco Giusa, Salatori Giggio, Maximilian & Julian Epondulan, Selvam Irudayaraj, Vincent, Rita, Glen & Roshan Jayapala, J.B, Jonathan Tek Kie, Mangion & Cini Family, 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, Lourda Motha, Xavier Motha Jr, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Falzon & Muscat families, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, Eustace Ratnam, Jose & Maria Reyes, John & Roseline Ratnam, Mary Silva, John Spiteri, Sheadon Trek, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Mary Zammit.

KEEP UP TO DATE

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

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 2:42-47*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love is everlasting.

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| 1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.) | 3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.) |
| 2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.) | |
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SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:3-9*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 20:19-31*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

The Jewish law, as we know, was rather specific about the punishments that were aligned with the crimes people committed. It was rigidly enforced and to seek pardon for certain offences was considered impossible, even when there were circumstances that changed the nature of the crime.

Despite this age-old socio-cultural expectation, Jesus began to bring significant change to the lives of his followers. In his first appearance to the disciples, gathered in an isolated room, for fear of further retributions from the Jewish authorities, he entrusted to them the power to forgive sins. Here he laid the foundation for the sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation as we know it today and hence offered hope to many people. The manner in which Jesus suddenly made his appearance among the disciples was extraordinary, because, according to John, he 'came and stood among' them just like the air that entered the closed room. Here Jesus was obviously in his divine state, beyond the law of physics, and his post-Resurrection state gives us a hint about the world he will lead us into, after this life.

For some unknown reasons, Thomas was absent when Jesus first appeared to the group and refused to believe what his friends told him about their encounter with the Risen Christ. He even dared to challenge Jesus to appear again, so that he could see him face to face and literally touch him by putting his finger into his pierced hands and side as proof. Anything less than that, he would remain in his unbelief. A week after Thomas' daring challenge, Jesus appeared again to the disciples in the presence of Thomas. This time he challenged Thomas to go ahead with his plan to touch his wounded body. Despite his strong words about Jesus the week before, Thomas was almost speechless when he suddenly saw Jesus standing in front of him and showing his wounded hands and side. All he could utter then was 'my Lord and my God.' What Jesus said next was truly amazing, for his words of blessing aimed to go beyond Thomas to become something timeless and transgenerational. In fact, they were meant for his future believers, including us today, who have faith in him though we have not had any physical contact with him.

Let us give praise and thanks to the Risen Christ for our gift of faith based on the testimony of Thomas and other Apostles who helped us believe in him. Pray that the Easter grace we receive from the Eucharist today will keep us strong in faith and firmly on the path of charity Jesus expects us to walk along today, and finally reach the place that he came to lead us to.

Have a faith-filled week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FR. HENRY**
May Our Lady of Lourdes
fill your heart with
blessings
and joy 10th April



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS 5PM

Next Sunday, 19th of April, we have our additional mass at 5.00pm. It is an opportunity for our parishioners, especially the young ones to attend Mass on Sunday.

THE GROTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Children aged 9-14yrs are invited to join us on Sunday, 19th April, 3:30pm – 6pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Scan the QR codes on the posters around the exits of the church to register or email our Youth Coordinator, Diana Park via dianap@olol7hills.com.au for more information.

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.

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.

PARISH OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

Jane Nguyen has left our Parish office team to pursue her new career after years of serving our community as Parish assistant secretary. I would like to thank her for her hard work and joyful dedication to the parish and wish her all the best in the new chapter of her life. On the other hand, we are truly blessed to have Frank Paiva available to step into the role. I would like to thank Frank for accepting the invitation to join our Parish office team and welcome him into the ranks. I am sure that he will bring some fresh air into the place.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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'S FIRST EASTER MESSAGE (THE URBI ET ORBI)

*Brothers and sisters,
Christ is risen! Happy Easter!*

For centuries, the Church has joyfully sung of the event that is the origin and foundation of her faith: "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen / Christ indeed from death is risen / Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning" (*Easter Sequence*). Easter is the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, of love over hatred. It is a victory that came at a very high price: Christ, the Son of the living God (cf. *Mt 16:16*), had to die — and die on a cross — after suffering an unjust condemnation, being mocked and tortured, and shedding all his blood. As the true immolated Lamb, he took upon himself the sin of the world (cf. *Jn 1:29*; *1 Pet 1:18–19*) and thus freed us all — and with us, all creation — from the dominion of evil.

But *how* was Jesus able to be victorious? What is the strength with which he defeated once and for all the ancient adversary, the prince of this world (cf. *Jn 12:31*)? What is the power with which he rose from the dead, not returning to his former life, but entering into eternal life and thus opening in his own flesh the passage from this world to the Father? This strength, this power, is God himself for he is Love who creates and generates, Love who is faithful to the end and Love who forgives and redeems.

Christ, our "victorious King," fought and won his battle through trusting abandonment to the Father's will, to his plan of salvation (cf. *Mt 26:42*). Thus, he walked the path of dialogue to the very end, not in words but in deeds: to find us who were lost, he became flesh; to free us who were slaves, he became a slave; to give life to us mortals, he allowed himself to be killed on the cross. The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent. It is like that of a grain of wheat which, having rotted in the earth, grows, breaks through the clouds, sprouts, and becomes a golden ear of wheat. It is even more like that of a human heart which, wounded by an offense, rejects the instinct for revenge and filled with compassion, prays for the one who has committed the offense.

Brothers and sisters, this is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships at every level: among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others. Yes, Christ's resurrection is the beginning of a new humanity; it is the entrance into the true promised land, where justice, freedom, and peace reign, where all recognize one another as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father who is Love, Life, and Light.

Brothers and sisters, through his resurrection, the Lord confronts us even more powerfully with the dramatic reality of our freedom. Before the empty tomb, we can be filled with hope and wonder, like the disciples, or with fear like the guards and the Pharisees, forced to resort to lies and subterfuge rather than acknowledge that the one who had been condemned is truly risen (cf. *Mt 28:11–15*)!

In the light of Easter, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ! Let us allow our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us! Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!

We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Indifferent to the repercussions of hatred and division that conflicts sow. Indifferent to the economic and social consequences they produce, which we all feel. There is an ever-increasing "globalization of indifference," to borrow an expression dear to Pope Francis, who one year ago from this loggia addressed his final words to the world, reminding us: "What a great thirst for death, for killing, we witness each day in the many conflicts raging in different parts of the world!" (*Urbi et Orbi Message*, 20 April 2025).

The cross of Christ always reminds us of the suffering and pain that surround death and the agony it entails. We are all afraid of death, and out of fear we turn away, preferring not to look. We cannot continue to be indifferent! And we cannot resign ourselves to evil! Saint Augustine teaches: "If you fear death, love the resurrection!" (*Sermon 124*, 4). Let us too, love the resurrection, which reminds us that evil is not the last word, because it has been defeated by the Risen One. He passed through death to give us life and peace: "I leave you peace; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives it, I give it to you" (*Jn 14:27*). The peace that Jesus gives us is not merely the silence of weapons, but the peace that touches and transforms the heart of each one of us! Let us allow ourselves to be transformed by the peace of Christ! Let us make heard the cry for peace that springs from our hearts! For this reason, I invite everyone to join me in a prayer vigil for peace that we will celebrate here in Saint Peter's Basilica next Saturday, April 11.

On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination, and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars and marked by a hatred and indifference that make us feel powerless in the face of evil. To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give. Let us entrust ourselves to him and open our hearts to him! He is the only one who makes all things new (cf. *Rev 21:5*).
Happy Easter!

POPE LEO'S EASTER HOMILY

"The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen... drives out hatred, fosters concord and brings down the mighty" (Exsultet).

With these words at the beginning of this celebration, dear brothers and sisters, the deacon praised the light of the Risen Christ, symbolized by the Paschal Candle. From this single candle, we have all lit our own candles, and each carrying a small flame drawn from the same fire, we have illuminated this great basilica. It is the sign of the Paschal light, which unites us in the Church as lights for the world. At the deacon's announcement, we responded "Amen," affirming our commitment to embrace this mission, and shortly we will repeat our "yes" by renewing our baptismal promises. This, my dear friends, is a Vigil filled with light, the oldest in the Christian tradition, known as the "mother of all vigils." In it we relive the victory of the Lord of life over death and the underworld. We do this, as part of one great celebration, after having journeyed in recent days through the mysteries of the Passion of the God who became for us "a man of sorrows" (Is 53:3), "despised and rejected by men" (ibid.), tortured and crucified. Is there a greater act of charity? A more complete gift? The risen One is the same creator of the universe who, just as he brought us into existence out of nothing at the dawn of history, also gave his life for us on the Cross to show us his boundless love.

The first reading reminded us of this with the account of creation. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (cf. Gen 1:1), bringing the cosmos out of chaos, harmony out of disorder and entrusting to us – made in his image and likeness – the task of being its stewards. Even when, through sin, humanity failed to live up to that plan, the Lord did not abandon us but revealed his merciful face to us in an even more surprising way – through forgiveness. The "holy mystery of this night," then, has its roots even in the place where humanity's first failure took place, and extends across the centuries as a path of reconciliation and grace. Through the sacred texts we have heard, the liturgy has shown us some of the stages of this journey. It reminded us how God stopped Abraham's hand as he was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, to show us that he does not desire our death, but rather that we dedicate ourselves to being, in his hands, living members of the lineage of those who are saved (cf. Gen 22:11–12, 15–18). In the same way, the liturgy invited us to reflect on how the Lord freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, transforming the sea – a place of death and an insurmountable obstacle – into the gateway to a new life of freedom. The same message echoed in the words of the prophets, who praised God as a bridegroom who calls and gathers (cf. Is 54:5–7), a spring that quenches thirst, water that brings forth fruit (cf. Is 55:1, 10), a light that shows the way to peace (cf. Bar 3:14) and Spirit who transforms and renews the heart (cf. Ez 36:26).

In all of these moments in the history of salvation, we have seen how God responds to the hardness of sin – which divides and kills – with the power of love, which unites and restores life. We have heard the narrative interwoven with psalms and prayers, reminding us that, through Christ's Paschal Mystery, "we were buried with him by baptism into death... we too might walk in newness of life... dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:4, 11); we are therefore consecrated in Baptism to the Father's love, united in the communion of saints and made, by grace, living stones for the building up of his Kingdom (cf. 1 Pet 2:4–5). In this light, let us reflect on the story of the Resurrection, which we heard in the Gospel according to Matthew. On Easter morning, the women, overcoming their grief and fear, set out on their journey. They wanted to go to Jesus' tomb. They expected to find it sealed, with a large stone at the entrance and soldiers standing guard. This is what sin is: a heavy barrier that closes us off and separates us from God, seeking to kill his words of hope within us. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, however, did not let themselves be intimidated. They went to the tomb and, thanks to their faith and love, became the first witnesses of the Resurrection. In the earthquake and in the angel sitting on the overturned stone, they saw the power of God's love, stronger than any force of evil, capable of "driving out hatred" and "bringing down the mighty." Man can kill the body, but the life of the God of love is eternal life, which transcends death and which no tomb can imprison. Thus, the Crucified One reigned from the cross, the angel sat upon the stone, and Jesus appeared to them alive, saying, "Greetings!" (Mt 28:9).

This, my dear friends, is also our message to the world today. The encounter to which we want to bear witness – through the words of faith and the works of charity – we do so by "singing" with our lives the "Alleluia" that we proclaim with our lips (cf. Saint Augustine, Sermon 256, 1). Just as the women rushed to tell the disciples, we too should desire to set out tonight from this Basilica to bring to all the good news that Jesus has risen and that having risen with him, through his power, we too can give life to a new world of peace and unity as "a multitude of people and yet [...] a single person, for although there are many Christians, Christ is one" (Saint Augustine, Commentaries on the Psalms, 127:3). Our brothers and sisters gathered here, who come from various parts of the world and are about to receive Baptism, will dedicate themselves to this mission. After the long journey of the catechumenate, today they are reborn in Christ to become new creatures (cf. 2 Cor 5:17) and witnesses to the Gospel. To them, and to all of us, let us repeat what Saint Augustine said to the Christians of his time: "Proclaim Christ, sow..., spread everywhere what you have conceived in your heart" (Sermon 116, 23–24).

Sisters and brothers, even today there are tombs to be opened, and often the stones sealing them are so heavy and so closely guarded that they seem to be immovable. Some weigh heavily on the human heart, such as mistrust, fear, selfishness and resentment; others, stemming from these inner struggles, sever the bonds between us through war, injustice and the isolation of peoples and nations. Let us not allow ourselves to be paralyzed by them! Over the centuries, many men and women, with God's help, have rolled them away — perhaps with great effort, sometimes at the cost of their lives — but with good fruits that we still benefit from today. They are not unattainable figures, but people like us who, strengthened by the grace of the Risen One, in charity and truth, had the courage to speak, as the Apostle Peter says, the "very words of God" (1 Pet 4:11) and to act "with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified" (ibid.).

Let us be inspired by their example, and on this Holy Night let us make their commitment our own, so that the Easter gifts of harmony and peace may grow and flourish everywhere and always throughout the world.

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 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.

April 2026

15	OLOL Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7:30pm
20	SCHOOL TERM 2 STARTS	
28	First Reconciliation Liturgy	7.00pm
29	Confirmation 2026 Information Meeting	6.30pm

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

11/12 April

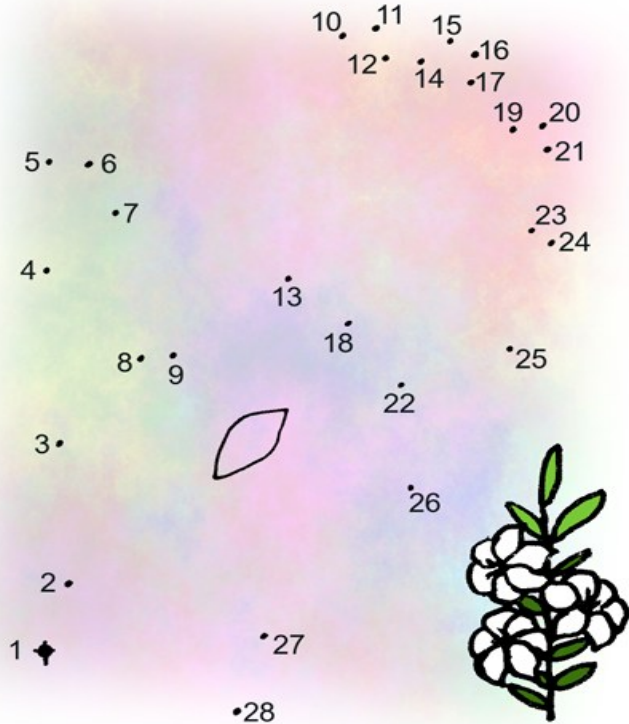
Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: N. Shami, R. Soares 8am: L. Fernandes, F. Paiva 9.30am: G. Basili, A. Walker	
Readers	Vigil: A. Franco, N. Sumcad 8am: P. Ferriols, M. Santos 9.30am: K. Huihui, Z. Smith	
Altar Servers	Vigil: C.P. Bellamin, J. Hoang, E. Reardon 8am: J. Blackshaw, C. Smith 9.30am: N. D'Cruz, M. Stormer, E. Wright	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Office	
Musicians	Vigil: Fr Henry 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudette, Raquel, Tess	
Church Cleaning	16 April	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Volunteer	

18/19 April

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Faylene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: L. La Guidara, B. Motha 8am: J. Mai, M. Santos 9.30am: T. Perak, C. Brooks	
Readers	Vigil: M. Simic, Yxavel Dino 8am: J. Irudayaraj, A. McNally 9.30am: E. Pieris, R. Saldanha	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A. La Guidara, C. La Guidara, A. Bagatella 8am: C. Bellamin 9.30am: M. Pieris, J. Pieris, L. Sager	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Christine Clarke 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Christine Clarke	
Flowers	Fennie, Angela, Kamela	
Church Cleaning	22 April	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Sastina Pieris, Raul Graham Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter
April 12th, 2026



Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



Saint Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead.

What did Thomas say he would have to see before he believed that Jesus was alive?

Connect the dots to find out!

Choose the word that best matches the definition below.

- ___ 1. The body parts at the end of the arms
A. feet B. hands C. toes D. legs
- ___ 2. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
A. doubt B. see C. faith D. touch
- ___ 3. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
A. angry B. peace C. fight D. doubting
- ___ 4. To break God's law
A. believe B. life C. sin D. peace
- ___ 5. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
A. doubting B. believing C. forgiving D. happy
- ___ 6. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
A. Peter B. Thomas C. Andrew D. John
- ___ 7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer
A. cross B. nail C. door D. lock
- ___ 8. Not open
A. room B. door C. closed D. nail
- ___ 9. To believe in something for which there is no proof
A. door B. faith C. closed D. doubt
- ___ 10. An entrance into a building or room
A. side B. nail C. door D. lock



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