

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

*"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."*

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<b>Parish Office Team:</b>	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Frank Paiva, Laura Ilioski	<b>Principal:</b>	Ms Keiran Byrnes
<b>Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday</b>	9am - 3.00pm	<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASS:</b>	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	<b>Baptismal Preparation:</b>	15 July 2026
<b>WEEKEND MASS:</b>	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	<b>Baptism:</b>	24 May 2026
		<b>Sacrament Co-Ordinator:</b>	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		<b>Youth Co-Ordinator:</b>	Diana Park
		<b>Parish Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.olol7hills.org.au">www.olol7hills.org.au</a>
		<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/">https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/</a>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3 May 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, Ruben Mina, 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](mailto: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, Kay Hotschilt, James Muscat, Mary Josephine Fernandopulle, Roselyne & Erwin Schulter, Jessie Zammit.

**Anniversaries:** Astrid Abeleda, Leisle Abreo, Mary Alagiah, Gregorio Almodovar, Lourdes Apalisok, Cristina Apolinario, Lisette & Joe Aristobil, Elvina Barnaba, Rolily Burac, Grech Charlie, Saro Chary, Maria Dalgado, Kevin Dougherty, Mary Camenzuli, Monte Franco, Agostino Fantin, Ngan Siu Eng, Teodora Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Manuel Jacob Gomez, John Harriss, Kathleen Harriss, David Joseph, Michael Kolosa, Shaeena Landagan, Norma Lorenzo, Felina Maglaya, River August Maglaya, Pietro Marra, Albert Moroney, Irene Moroney, Thomas Morrissey Snr, Charles Muscat, Jason Muscat, Jacintha Noronha, Colleen O'Sullivan, Marcel Spetter, Sem Serna, Ben Wijitr Benjabutr, 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, 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, Constance Gaycroft, Francisco Giusa, Salatori Gogio, Jeffrey Hunter, 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, Anton & Lourda Motha, Mary & Francis Muscat, Jason Muscat & family, Jim & Philippa Muscat, Falzon & Muscat families, Leo Ngan, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, Eustace Ratnam, Jose & Maria Reyes, John & Roseline Ratnam, Chuling Sabale, Cua Sing, John Spiteri, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Jim Vella, Prescila Villanueva, 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.

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R)** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 2:4-9*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 14:1-12*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



## FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

Recently I watched a video clip about an art exhibition by Canadian artist Peter Doig. The subject of some of his paintings were lions. When asked to comment about the lions in his artworks, he referred to them as the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah". As I had no idea what this meant, I began to research it and pleasantly found out it had something to do with Jesus. More specifically, it is one of many titles of Jesus, as referred to in the book of Revelations (cf Rev.

5.5).

Jesus as we know has also enjoyed a number of various titles such as, Son of God, Son of Man, Emmanuel, Good Shepherd, Savior, Mediator, Bread of Life, the True Vine, and so on. Apart from these titles, this Sunday's reading from the Gospel of John presents a triple title for Jesus: the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

As the Way, he came to free us from the bondage of sin and lead us to God exclusively – since we have no access to God without Him. As the Truth, we can place our trust in him totally, because there is no falsehood in Him, and everything He proclaimed proved true, most notably His resurrection as foretold. Finally, as the Life, he offers us, his believers the gift of eternal life that begins now and endures forever.

From this act of self-revelation, Jesus gave us a glimpse into the divine world when he described the inseparable unity between the Father and Himself, that "I am in the Father, and the Father is in me". Consequently, if we know one person, we can gain insight into the other as well. In this sense, Jesus told Thomas, "If you know me, you know my Father too."

As Christian Catholics after years of learning about Jesus, we should be capable of saying something meaningful about Him. We are familiar with His teachings, understands what He expects from us and what He commands us to do. We also know that his key expectation from his disciples is to fulfill his dual commandments of love – loving God and loving people. This aligns with the Father's expectation, as Jesus and the Father are one—and God Himself is love (cf Jn 4.8).

Let us give praise and thanks to God today, for allowing us the privilege of getting to know Him, made possible through the kindness of Jesus, who revealed the Father to us. Let us pray for the grace, to guide us along the Way of love Jesus has shown us, and immerse ourselves in the Truth of his teachings to eventually attain the fullness of Life with Him and the Father for eternity.

Have a Christ-centric week,

*Fr Henry*

## PARISH NEWS...

### 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**.

We also require current Altar Servers to assist in training the new candidates. All volunteers are welcome.

### LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Playgroup will resume for 2026 on Friday 15 May. Children aged 0 to 5yrs old and their carers are invited to come and join our playgroup from 9.00am till 11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. To attend, please register by 3pm on the Thursday prior via Facebook under 'Our Lady Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056.

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

There were 41 children in our parish who made their First Reconciliation on Tuesday 28 April. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their Sacramental program.

### 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](mailto:secretary@olol7hills.com.au) with your plaque wording (MUST be 25 letters or less).

Banking details below:

Account Name: Seven Hills Catholic Church.

BSB: 067 950

ACC: 000552

REF: (your surname) PLAQUE

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

*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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$500 Cash – 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: \$200 Cash

The raffle will be drawn at the end of the 9.30AM Mass on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 "Joyful Journey" group enjoyed a delightful outing on ANZAC day to Bobbin Head at Ku-ring-gai Chase national park. The "Divine Fellowship" group hiked around Prospect Reservoir on 27-April. Both groups 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:

- Housekeeper Supervisor – Holy Spirit Seminary, Harris Park

More details at: [parracatholic.org/jobs](https://parracatholic.org/jobs)

### Rosary Workshops in May

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The evening will be held on the following days: Tuesday 5 May and Wednesday 20th May at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown, from 7pm. Cost: \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, visit [parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops](https://parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops), contact 0460 037 795 or email [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto:ofw@parracatholic.org)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://parracatholic.org/ministry-of-care-courses) to reserve your spot. For enquiries, please contact [ofw@parracatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org).

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## POPE LEO'S REGINA CAELI

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

The Lord does not come to take anything from us. Rather, He is the Good Shepherd who increases life and offers it to us in abundance. Pope Leo XIV offered this reminder during his Regina Caeli address in the Vatican on Sunday. Before reciting the midday Marian prayer of the Easter season, the Holy Father invited the faithful to keep their eyes and hearts focused on the gifts that nourish faith and joy, while remaining vigilant against anything that may undermine them.

### *Shepherds and thieves*

The Pope began by recalling the day's reading from the Gospel of John, in which Jesus compares Himself to both a shepherd and the gate of the sheepfold, highlighting the contrast between the shepherd and the thief. He explained that Jesus distinguishes clearly between the two: the shepherd enters through the gate because of his bond with the sheep, while the one who climbs in another way reveals himself as a thief intent on harm. Christ, by contrast, the Pope stressed, comes so that all may have life in abundance.

### *Jesus knows and seeks us like a shepherd seeks his sheep*

The Pope emphasized that Jesus is bound to us by a relationship of friendship. He knows us, calls us by name, guides us, and seeks us out when we are lost, caring for us with tenderness. The Holy Father stressed that Jesus does not come to take away our life or freedom, but to lead us along the right path. Rather than deceiving our conscience, Pope Leo underscored, Christ enlightens it. And rather than diminishing our joys, the Pope continued, Jesus opens them to a deeper and lasting happiness. Thus, the Holy Father reassured the faithful that those who entrust themselves to Him have nothing to fear, for He comes not to deprive us, but to give life in its fullness.

### *Remaining vigilant*

At the same time, Pope Leo invited the faithful to remain attentive to what enters their hearts and lives. "They could be people who, regardless of appearances, suppress our freedom or fail to respect our dignity; beliefs and biases that prevent us from viewing others and life with serenity; mistaken ideas that can lead us to make negative choices; or superficial and consumeristic lifestyles that leave us empty on the inside and push us to live constantly beyond ourselves." Pope Leo also said we must not forget those "thieves" who, "by pillaging the earth's resources, waging blood-thirsty wars, or fueling evil in any form, do nothing but rob each of us of the possibility of a future marked by peace and serenity." In light of this, the Holy Father encouraged everyone to reflect on who they allow to guide them in life and to guard against influences that may lead them astray.

### *Trust in the Lord*

Finally, the Pope reiterated that the Gospel calls us to place our trust in the Lord. "Christ," the Holy Father reiterated, "does not take anything away; instead, He is the Good Shepherd who gives life in abundance."

Finally, Pope Leo concluded by entrusting all to the intercession of Mary, praying the Blessed Mother may accompany us on our journey.

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## POPE LEO'S LATEST INTERVIEW

On the return flight to Rome, Pope Leo XIV speaks to journalists about his mission to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples, recalls child victims of the wars in Iran and Lebanon, condemns the death penalty, and insists on respect for international law.

Vatican News

"Good day, everyone. I hope you are well, that you are ready for another journey. With fully recharged batteries already!" Pope Leo XIV has concluded his long Apostolic Journey in Africa. Aboard the flight from Malabo—the final stop in Equatorial Guinea—back to Rome, he answered questions from five of the roughly 70 journalists who followed the international visit. He addressed the issues of war, the US-Iran negotiations, migration, the death penalty, and the blessing of homosexual couples. The Pope began with a reflection on the experience he had just concluded in four African nations.

*Arthur Herlin (Paris Match): Holy Father, thank you very much in the name of all my French colleagues for that amazing trip. It was wonderful. Holy Father, during this trip, you met leaders among the most authoritarian in the world, right? How can you prevent your presence from lending moral authority to these regimes? Isn't it a kind of let's say, 'popewashing'?*

*[Pope Leo XIV, in English:]* Thank you for the question. Certainly, the presence of a Pope with any Head of State can be interpreted in different ways. It can be interpreted and has been interpreted by some as, "Ah, the Pope or the Church is saying it's okay that they live like that." And others may say things differently. I would go back to something I said in my initial remarks about the importance of understanding the primary purpose of the travel that I do, that the Pope does, to visit the people, and of the great value that the system, that the Holy See continues with, at times, great sacrifice, to maintain diplomatic relations with countries throughout the world. And sometimes we have diplomatic relationships with countries that have authoritarian leaders.

We have the opportunity to speak with them on a diplomatic level, on a formal level. We don't always make great proclamations—criticizing, judging, or condemning. But there's an awful lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to promote justice, to promote humanitarian causes, to look for, at times, situations where there may be political prisoners, and finding a way for them to be freed. Situations of hunger, of sickness, etc. So the Holy See, by maintaining, if you will, a neutrality and looking for ways to continue our positive diplomatic relationship with so many different countries, we're actually trying to find a way to apply the Gospel to concrete situations so that the lives of people can be improved. People will interpret the rest of it as they will, but I think it's important for us to look for the best way that we can to try and help the people of any given country.

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## POPE LEO'S WORDS FOR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS AT THEIR ORDINATION IN ROME LAST SUNDAY

Vatican News

Pope Leo XIV ordained a group of ten priests at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday, as the Church celebrated the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. At the Mass on 26 April, the Pope based his homily on the Gospel of John, recalling Jesus' words: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." He pointed to the generosity of the newly-ordained priests as a sign that this promise is still being lived today.

### **A ministry of communion**

The Pope described priesthood as a "ministry of communion." He stressed that a close relationship with Christ does not distance priests from others, but deepens their connection to all people. "The deeper your bond with Christ, the more radical your belonging to humanity," he said. He also reflected on celibacy, comparing it to the love within marriage, which is something that requires care, renewal, and commitment over time. This form of love, he added, should lead priests to become not only good ministers, but also responsible and constructive members of society.

### **Facing reality without fear**

Referring to the Gospel's mention of thieves and robbers, the Pope acknowledged the presence of violence and instability in the world. However, he stressed that Jesus does not withdraw in the face of danger, and neither should priests.

"Reality must not frighten us," he said, calling this a key aspect of priestly life. He warned that today's search for security can lead to fear, division, and hostility. Instead, he encouraged the new priests to find their stability in Christ, rather than in their role or status.

### **Learning from the communities they serve**

The Pope went on to highlight that the communities to which priests are sent are not empty or passive, but already marked by the presence of the Risen Christ. "These communities will also help you to become saints," he said. He encouraged the ordinands to foster unity, helping people come together and creating spaces where individuals can experience the value of community life.

"I am the gate"

A central theme of the homily was Jesus' image of Himself as the "gate." The Pope recalled its historical reference in Jerusalem and linked it to Baptism and entry into the life of the Church. He warned against placing obstacles in the way of those who seek to approach the faith. "Do not block this gate," he said, urging priests to ensure that the Church remains accessible.

### **Open Church, open mission**

The Pope then insisted that priests should not act as gatekeepers who restrict access, but as "channels, not filters." In a context where many people feel distant from the Church, he encouraged them to keep doors open and to be ready both to welcome and to go out.

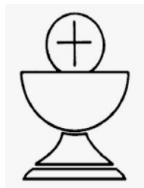
"You belong to everyone and are for everyone," he said.

He also emphasized that the Church should not confine people, but help them engage more fully with life. Quoting the Gospel, he noted that those who are saved "enter, go out, and find pasture."

### **Going out to meet people**

Bringing his homily to a close, the Pope encouraged the new priests to engage with the wider world, including culture and everyday life. He acknowledged that they may at times feel uncertain, but reminded them that the Good Shepherd guides the way.

Pope Leo concluded by pointing to the witness of trust in God, recalling the words of Psalm 23, and encouraging the new priests to carry that confidence into their ministry.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### MAY 2026

6	Confirmation 2026 Meeting (2)	6.30pm
10	Mother's Day	
13	Confirmation 2026 Meeting (3)	6.30pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 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	

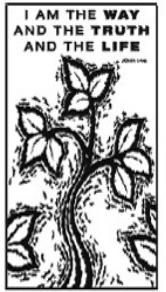
### 9/10 MAY

Acolytes	Vigil: Derick Soares 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Kilifi Huihui	
Ministers	Vigil: J. Franco, R. Soares 8am: A. McNally, L. Fernandes 9.30am: K. Huihui, F. Kennedy	
Readers	Vigil: A. Punch, N. Sumcad 8am: J. Irudayaraj, J. Sarmiento 9.30am: E. Pieris, C. Diaz	
Altar Servers	Vigil: M. Forrest, B. Spadaro, J. Spadaro 8am: J. Blackshaw, C. Smith 9.30am: M. Pieris, J. Pieris, L. Sager	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Parish Pastoral Council	
Musicians	Vigil: Fr Henry 8am: Fr Henry 9.30am: Tongan Choir	
Flowers	Claudia, Siani, Tess	
Church Cleaning	27 May	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: S. Pieris	

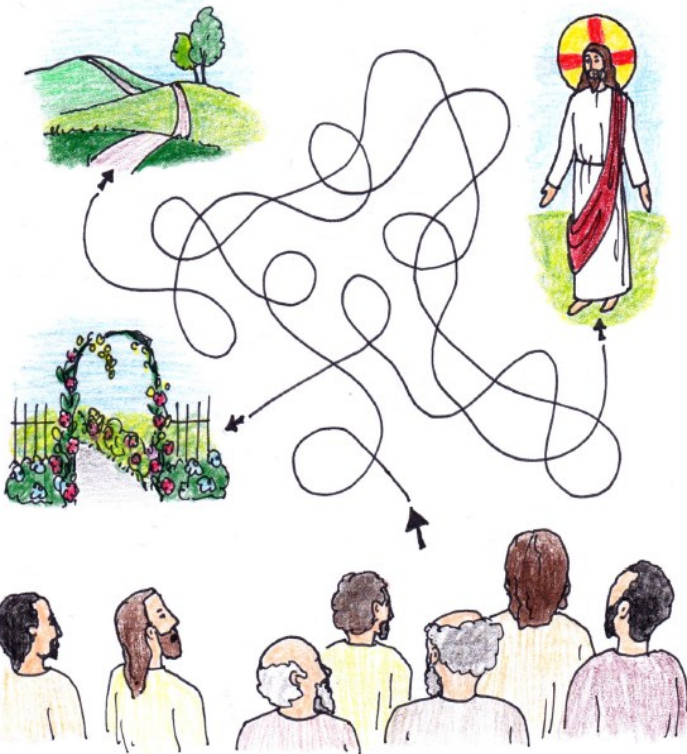
# The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 3rd, 2026

## Finding the Way



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6  
Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- \_\_\_ 1. To accept something as being true  
A. truth B. house C. believe D. way
- \_\_\_ 2. To get ready for something that will happen in the future  
A. leave B. prepare C. believe D. way
- \_\_\_ 3. A building in which people, usually one family, live  
A. church B. school C. house D. store
- \_\_\_ 4. Areas in a building that have their own walls, floor, ceiling, and door  
A. windows B. rooms C. house D. life
- \_\_\_ 5. The male parent  
A. brother B. sister C. mother D. father
- \_\_\_ 6. The period between birth and death  
A. time B. believe C. life D. day
- \_\_\_ 7. The actual facts about something  
A. truth B. way C. life D. prepare
- \_\_\_ 8. The route or path to follow to get to a place  
A. truth B. way C. rooms D. life

*In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples the way to the Father in Heaven. Do you know which is the way? Follow the squiggly line to find out!*

