

# 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](mailto:secretary@lol7hills.com.au)

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	<b>Parish School:</b>	LOLO 8869 6800
<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>

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10 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@lol7hills.com.au](mailto:secretary@lol7hills.com.au)

We can also arrange for Holy Communion or a visit if required.

### Let us Pray for the Deceased

**Recently Deceased:** Salvatore Marra, Gerry Fernandes, James Muscat, Mary Josephine Fernandopulle, Roselyne & Erwin Schulter, Carlos Snr

**Anniversaries:** Gregorio Almodovar, Rolily Burac, Grech Charlie, Kevin Dougherty, Mary Camenzuli, Monte Franco, Agostino Fantin, Ngan Siu Eng, Teodora Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Manuel Jacob Gomez, Rita Hili, Cameron Jones, Oliver Jordan, David Joseph, Michael Kolosa, Shaeena Landagan, Norma Lorenzo, Felina Maglaya, River August Maglaya, Pietro Marra, Albert Moroney, Irene Moroney, Charles Muscat, Jason Muscat, Gladys Salvia, Jacintha Noronha, Colleen O'Sullivan, Marcel Spetter, Sem Serna, Ben Wijit Benjabutr, Jason Muscat, Tony Muscat, Felix & Andreanna 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 & Launcer 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, 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, Michael 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, Josephine Muscat, Falzon & Muscat families, Leo Ngan, Eamon & John O'Sullivan, Eustace Ratnam, John & Roseline Ratnam, Chuling Sabale, Cua Sing, John Spiteri, Tony Vassollo, Shane Vaz, Alison Vella, 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.



#### KEEP UP TO DATE

By visiting our parish website with news, the bulletin, prayers and much more. Visit [www.olol7hills.org.au](http://www.olol7hills.org.au)

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**FIRST READING** *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R)** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

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|---|--|
| 1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,<br>O sing to the glory of his name.<br>O render him glorious praise.<br>Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! <b>(R.)</b> | 3. He turned the sea into dry land,<br>they passed through the river dry-shod.<br>Let our joy then be in him;<br>he rules for ever by his might. <b>(R.)</b>             |
| 2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;<br>shall sing to you, sing to your name!'<br>Come and see the works of God,<br>tremendous his deeds among men. <b>(R.)</b>    | 4. Come and hear, all who fear God.<br>I will tell what he did for my soul:<br>Blessed be God who did not reject my<br>prayer nor withhold his love from me. <b>(R.)</b> |
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**SECOND READING** *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 3:15-18*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** *A reading from the first holy gospel according to John 14:15-21*

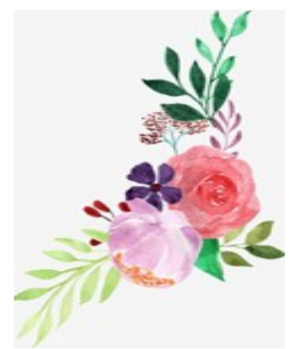
Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**MOTHERS' DAY PRAYER**

*Heavenly God, we give you praise and thanks for the gifts of Mary,  
the mother of Jesus, and all mothers.  
We remember and celebrate today their loving care,  
and their endless love for us.  
May we show them by our prayers, our gifts, our words and our  
actions that we truly love them and care about them.  
We thank you for the family of the church, especially for those,  
who truly are mothers within our Christian families.  
May they know your blessing and strength, as they offer their  
tender care for others in their motherly call.  
Amen*





**FROM FR. HENRY**

Dear friends,

As the feast of Pentecost approaches, we begin to hear the name of the Holy Spirit in our readings at Mass, and as we know, the Holy Spirit is often referred to by many names and titles in the Bible, such as Spirit, Spirit of God, Comforter, Helper, Paraclete, Advocate, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Life, and Spirit of Christ, all of which highlight his divinity, roles, and character. In the Gospel today, Jesus uses the title Advocate for the Holy Spirit in his address to the disciples.

From an epistemologically perspective, the word Advocate comes from the Greek origin meaning advocate or helper often used by judges and lawyers to describe someone who helps or advises the defence in court, and in this Gospel's context, Jesus called the Holy Spirit, Advocate perhaps in the sense that the Spirit is sent to defend us in our time of need. This concept was particularly familiar to Early Christians who were put on trial by their authorities or condemned to die a very painful death because of their faith in Jesus. While some were fed to the lions and others crucified or skinned alive, they needed hope and assurances that God was not abandoning them. Here, John seemed to reassure them that even though they will be on trial, they won't be alone at all, since the Holy Spirit will be at their side as their Advocate to give them strength, inspiration, help and advice, so that they can withstand through all their troubles and hardships.

In return, they have to keep to their hearts Jesus' commandments, in other words they need to remain in their love for God and others as Jesus taught them, this is the sign of their love for Jesus and their reward will be two fold: they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and God the Father will also love them.

Though we not faced with persecution like our brothers and sisters in the Early Church or in a few places throughout the world today, the Holy Spirit will remain critical in our everyday life, for we need the Spirit of God to point us in the right direction, and to give us advice and support in our endeavours to put into practice Jesus' commandments in our everyday lives by means of loving God and people as Jesus taught us.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give strength to be the best witnesses to Jesus in what we are called to be and do in the world inspired by his commandment of dual love.

Have a spiritually productive week,

*Fr Henry*

**PARISH NEWS...**

• HAPPY •

*Mother's Day*

**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.

**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.

**THE GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Children aged 9-14yrs are invited to join us on Sunday, 17th May, 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@lol7hills.com.au](mailto:dianap@lol7hills.com.au) for more information.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

All members of our Parish Pastoral Council are invited to attend our next monthly meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 7.30PM in the parish Meeting Room.

**LOURDES OVER 50s GROUP**

Next meeting Thursday 14th May 2026, 10.30am– 1pm in the Parish Hall. All Welcome, please bring a plate to share.

**SUNDAY EVENING MASS 5PM**

Next Sunday, 17th of May, we have our additional mass at 5.00pm. It is an opportunity for our parishioners, especially the young ones to attend Mass on Sunday.

**LOURDES PLAYGROUP**

Playgroup will resume for 2026 next Friday 15th of 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's Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056.

**PLANNED GIVING 2026/27 ENVELOPES**

Thank you to all 2nd Collection givers for 2025/26. We will be ordering our envelopes for the next financial year shortly and would like to make sure all our details are correct. If you need to change address or bank details or if your family would like to join our planned giving for the next year please contact the Parish Office on 9622 2920 or complete a New Parishioner Form and we can include you. We appreciate the generosity by all our Parishioners.

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Please show our deepest respect for our House of God at Seven Hills by not bringing any food into the church, parents are always encouraged to bring soft toys and crayons for children to work with our weekly bulletin and to monitor them around the candles.

*More Parish news continued overpage...*

## PARISH NEWS CONTINUED...

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## LOLO SAFEGUARDING NEWS

### Visiting Clergy to OLOL

All visiting Clergy to our Church, uphold the standards and processes here, at OLOL and the Diocese of Parramatta have put in place to ensure the safety of our Community.

### LOLO Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteers here at OLOL have a responsibility to support the Diocese's goals and objectives. Ways we do this are by abiding by the Diocese's Code of Conduct; treating others with respect; behaving appropriately and courteously to all clergy, employees, volunteers, parishioners, contractors and the public in the course of your role; undertaking training as requested or necessary; treating confidential any personal information learned about in the course of duties; maintain professional relationships within acceptable boundaries; contributing to and maintaining workplace health and safety and being aware of the duty of care to yourselves, clergy, employees and other volunteers.

### 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).

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### Positions Vacant:

- Housekeeper Supervisor – Holy Spirit Seminary, Harris Park
- Parish Secretary—St Monica's Catholic Church, Richmond

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

### Bishop's Good Works Appeal

Across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. Through the Bishop's Good Works Appeal, our Diocese supports vital ministries including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Over the coming weeks, this Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead. Your generosity provides education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation for seminarians as they answer God's call. Please give generously at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.

### Parish Team Employment – Greystanes Co-ordinator of Volunteers

Initially 15 hrs/wk onsite for a suitably qualified/experienced person: Collaborating as a parish team member with a focus on promoting, organising parishioner involvement in ministry/service; Overseeing the safeguarding requirements for those in ministry/service whilst assisting processes for both practical and enriching ongoing formation.

*For full role description and requirements for making an application, please contact: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au) by 12 May 2026*

### 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.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities for May 2026

There are face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities 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, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

### Children and Young People's Participation

A Safeguarding culture for Children and Young People is fostered and sustained at OLOL by our parish community being committed to living the Gospel by serving the most vulnerable. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Seven Hills we implement all Arch/Diocesan policies, procedures and community standards that are Child and Young Person centred to lift barriers so their voices can be heard and their participation valued.

### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

If missed any of the face to face training held at our parish, you can complete these modules independently at times convenient to you via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>.

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## POPE LEO'S REGINA CAELI

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday! During the Easter season, like the early Church, we return to the words of Jesus, which reveal their full meaning in the light of his passion, death and resurrection. What once eluded the disciples or caused them distress now comes back to their minds, warms their hearts and fills them with hope. The Gospel proclaimed this Sunday presents the Master's dialogue with his disciples during the Last Supper. In particular, we hear a promise that involves us from this moment onwards in the mystery of his Resurrection. Jesus says: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also" (Jn 14:3). The Apostles thus discover that God has a place for everyone. Two of them had already experienced this during their first encounter with Jesus by the river Jordan. Jesus noticed them following him and invited them that afternoon to visit where he was staying (cf. Jn 1:39). Even now, faced with death, Jesus speaks of a home, but this time a very large one. It is the house of his Father and our Father, where there is room for all. The Son describes himself as the servant who prepares the rooms, so that every brother or sister, upon arriving, may find their own room ready and feel as though they have always been longed for and are at last found. Dear friends, in the old world in which we are still journeying, what attracts attention are exclusive places, experiences accessible only to a few and the privilege of entering where others cannot. In the new world into which the risen One leads us, however, what is most valuable is within everyone's reach. Yet this does not make it any less attractive. On the contrary, what is open to all now brings joy. Gratitude takes the place of competition; welcome overcomes exclusion; and abundance no longer entails inequality. Above all, no one is mistaken for someone else, and no one is lost. Death threatens to erase one's name and memory, but in God everyone is fully themselves.

Truly, this is what we spend our whole lives searching for, sometimes willing to do anything just to get a little attention and recognition. "Have faith," Jesus tells us. That is the secret! "Have faith in God; have faith also in me" (Jn 14:1). It is precisely this faith that frees our hearts from the anxiety of possessing and acquiring, and from the illusion that we must pursue a position of prestige to have worth. Each person already has infinite worth in the mystery of God, which is the true reality. By loving one another as Jesus has loved us, we impart this awareness to one another.

This is the new commandment; in this way, we anticipate heaven on earth and reveal to all that fraternity and peace are our calling. Indeed, through love, amidst a multitude of brothers and sisters, each one discovers that they are uniquely made. Let us pray, then, to Mary Most Holy, Mother of the Church, that every Christian community may be a home open to all and attentive to each person.

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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. "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. Below is a working English transcription and translation of the press conference:

**[Pope Leo XIV, in Italian:]** *When I travel, I speak for myself, but today as Pope, Bishop of Rome, it is above all a pastoral Apostolic Journey to meet, accompany, and get to know the People of God. Very often the interest expressed is more political: 'What does the Pope say about this or that issue? Why doesn't he judge the government in one country or another?' And there are certainly many things to say. I have spoken about justice, and those issues are there. But that is not the first word: the journey should be understood above all as an expression of the desire to proclaim the Gospel, to announce the message of Jesus Christ, which is a way of drawing close to the people in their happiness, in the depth of their faith, but also in their suffering. There, it is clear that very often it is necessary to make comments or to look for ways to encourage people themselves to take responsibility for their lives. It is also important to speak with Heads of State, to encourage a change of mindset or greater openness to thinking about the common good, and to consider issues such as the distribution of a country's resources. In the talks we had, we did a bit of everything, but above all we saw and met the people with this enthusiasm. I am very happy with the whole journey, but living, accompanying, and walking with the people of Equatorial Guinea was truly a blessing, with the rain... They were happy with the rain the other day, but above all it was a sign of sharing with the universal Church what we celebrate in our faith.*

Ignazio Ingrao (Tg1): Your Holiness, thank you for this journey rich in encounters, stories, and faces. At the peace meeting in Bamenda, Cameroon, you described an upside-down world where a handful of tyrants risk destroying the planet. Peace, you said, must not be invented but welcomed. Negotiations over the Iran conflict are in chaos, with heavy effects on the global economy. Do you hope for regime change in Iran, given that civil society and students also took to the streets months, in recent and there is global concern about the nuclear race? What appeal do you make to the United States, Iran, and Israel to break the deadlock and stop the escalation? And should NATO and Europe be more involved?

**[Pope Leo XIV, in Italian:]** *I would like to begin by saying that we must promote a new attitude and a culture of peace. Very often, when we assess certain situations, the immediate response is that we must go in with violence, with war, with attacks. What we have seen is that many innocent people have died. I have just seen a letter from families of children who were killed on the first day of the attack. They speak about how they have lost their children, who died in that event. The issue is not whether there is regime change or not; the issue is how to promote the values we believe in without the death of so many innocent people. The situation in Iran is clearly very complex. Even the negotiations themselves one day Iran says yes and the United States says no, and vice versa and we do not know where things are heading. This chaotic, critical situation for the global economy has been created, but there is also an entire population in Iran of innocent people suffering because of this war. So, on regime change, yes or no: it is not even clear what regime currently exists after the first days of attacks by Israel and the United States on Iran. Rather, I would encourage the continuation of dialogue for peace, that all sides make every effort to promote peace, remove the threat of war, and respect international law. It is very important that innocent people are protected, as has not happened in several places. I carry with me a photo of a Muslim child who, during the visit to Lebanon, was waiting there with a sign saying "Welcome Pope Leo." He has been killed in this final phase of the war. There are many human situations, and I think we must be able to think in these terms. As a Church I repeat as a pastor, I cannot be in favor of war. And I would like to encourage everyone to make efforts to seek answers that come from a culture of peace, not hatred and division.*

(Cont'd...)

Eva Fernández (Radio Cope): We are leaving a continent where many people desire and dream of traveling to Europe. Your next trip will be to Spain, where the migration issue is very important, especially in the Canary Islands. You know that migration in Spain generates great debate and polarization; even among Catholics there is no clear position. What can we say to Spaniards, and in particular to Catholics, about immigration? And, if you'll allow me: the next trip will be to Spain, but we know you also wish to travel to Peru, and perhaps to Argentina and Uruguay, and perhaps also to greet Our Lady of Guadalupe?

**[Pope Leo XIV, in Spanish:]** *The issue of migration is very complex and affects many countries, not only Spain, not only Europe, not only the United States; it is a global phenomenon. So, my answer begins with a question: what is the Global North doing to help the Global South, or those countries where young people today cannot find a future and therefore dream of moving north? Everyone wants to go north, but often the North has no answers on how to offer them opportunities. Many suffer... The issue of human trafficking is also part of migration. Personally, I believe that a State has the right to regulate its borders. I am not saying that everyone must be allowed to enter without order, sometimes creating in destination countries situations more unjust than those they left behind. But that said, I ask myself: what are we doing in richer countries to change the situation in poorer countries? Why can we not try, both through state aid and through the investments of large wealthy companies and multinationals, to change the situation in countries like those we visited on this visit? Africa is often seen by many as a place to extract minerals, to take its wealth for the benefit of other countries. Perhaps globally we should work more to promote greater justice, equality, and development in these African countries so that people do not need to emigrate to other countries, including Spain, and so on. And another point I would like to make is that, in any case, they are human beings, and we must treat human beings humanely, not treat them worse than animals, as often happens. It is a very big challenge: a country can say it cannot receive more than a certain number of people, but when people arrive, they are human beings and deserve the respect that belongs to every human being because of their dignity.*

Q: And the next journeys?

*I have a strong desire to visit several countries in Latin America. So far, nothing is confirmed; we will wait and see.*

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, 'pope-washing'?

**[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.*

Verena Stefanie Shälter (Ard Rundfunk): Holy Father, congratulations on your first papal trip to the Global South. We saw a lot of enthusiasm and even euphoria; I can imagine that was very moving for you as well. I would like to know how you assess the decision of Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, that he gave permission to the blessing of same-sex couples in his diocese, and in light of different cultural and theological perspectives, especially in Africa, how do you intend to preserve the unity of the global Church on that particular matter?

**[Pope Leo XIV, in English:]** *First of all, I think it's very important to understand that the unity or division of the Church should not revolve around sexual matters. We tend to think that when the Church is talking about morality, that the only issue of morality is sexual. And in reality, I believe there are much greater, more important issues, such as justice, equality, freedom of men and women, freedom of religion, that would all take priority before that particular issue. The Holy See has already spoken to the German bishops. The Holy See has made it clear that we do not agree with the formalized blessing of couples, in this case, homosexual couples, as you asked, or couples in irregular situations, beyond what was specifically, if you will, allowed for by Pope Francis in saying all people receive blessings. When a priest gives a blessing at the end of Mass, when the Pope gives a blessing at the end of a large celebration like the one we had today, they are blessings for all people. Francis' well-known expression 'Tutti, tutti, tutti' is an expression of the Church's belief that all are welcome; all are invited; all are invited to follow Jesus, and all are invited to look for conversion in their lives.*

*To go beyond that today, I think that the topic can cause more disunity than unity, and that we should look for ways to build our unity upon Jesus Christ and what Jesus Christ teaches. So that's how I would respond to that question.*

Anneliese Taggart (Newsmax TV): Holy Father, thank you very much. You have spoken on this trip about how people hunger and thirst for justice. It was just reported this morning that Iran has executed yet another one of the members of the opposition, and this comes as it has been said that the regime has also publicly hanged multiple other people, as well as murdered thousands of its own people. Do you condemn these actions, and do you have any message to the Iranian regime?

**[Pope Leo XIV, in English:]** *I condemn all actions that are unjust. I condemn the taking of people's lives. I condemn capital punishment. I believe that human life is to be respected and that all people—from conception to natural [death, ed.]—their lives should be respected and protected.*

*So when a regime, when a country takes decisions which takes away the lives of other people unjustly, then obviously that is something that should be condemned.*

## 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 GROTTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We invite children aged 9-14yrs old to join our Parish junior youth group on every third Sunday of the month. For information please contact Diana Park via email: [dianap@olol7hills.com.au](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

13	Confirmation 2026 Meeting (3)	6.30pm
13	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	7.30pm
14	Over 50's Group Meeting	10.30am
17	OLOL Junior Youth Group 'The Grotto'	3.30pm

## OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

### 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	9 May	Tongan Community Edgardo Barcelon Edgar Cabrera Aman Rawah
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: S. Pieris	

### 16/17 MAY

Acolytes	Vigil: Daniel La Guidara 8am: Terry Jordan 9.30am: Ramzee Michael	
Ministers	Vigil: L.La Guidara, M.Mifsud 8am: B.Motha, T.Perak 9.30am: C.Brooks, M.Michael	
Readers	Vigil: Y.Dino, M.Simic 8am: J. Cabasa, M.Santos 9.30am: M.Aquino, J.Nonato	
Altar Servers	Vigil: A.La Guidara, C.La Guidara, S.Thoms 8am: C.Bellamin, K.Maruthanayagam 9.30am: K.Cassaniti, O.Martinez, J.Martinez	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Tongan Choir	
Musicians	Vigil: Karen Thoms, Christine Woodward 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Christine Woodward	
Flowers	Fennie, Angela, Kamela	
Church Cleaning	21 May	Cathy Hutchings Annette Peatman Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Judith Deloso, Ram Ugre 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Edgardo Barcelon, Georgina Basili	

# The Kids' Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 10th, 2026

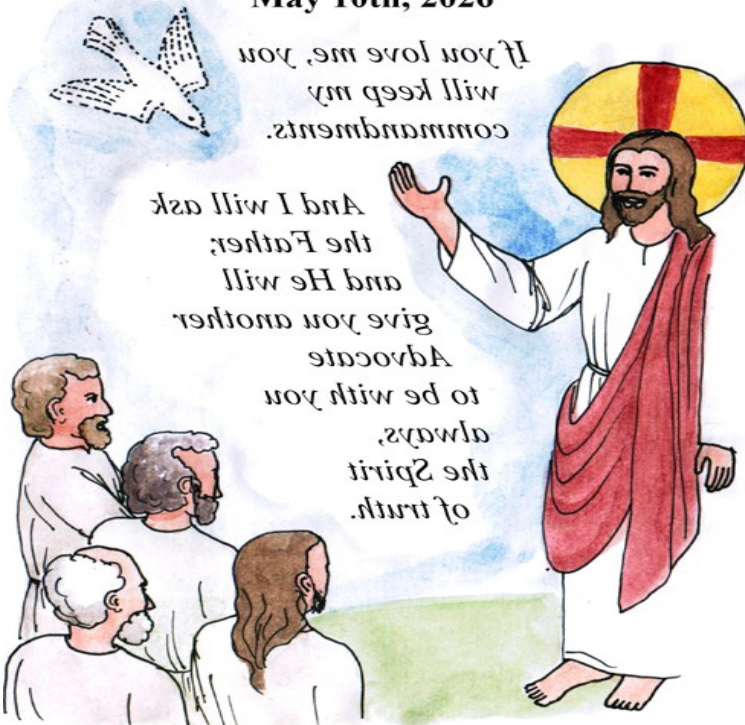
## Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit



John 14:16

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 14:15-21 (NIV).

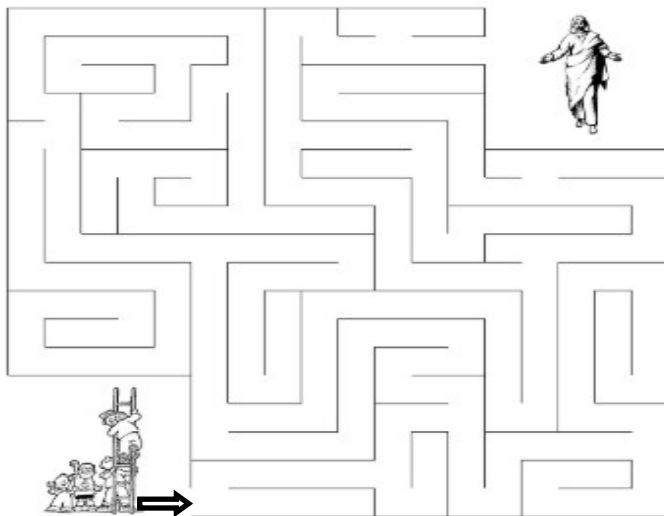


And I will ask  
the Father,  
and He will  
give you another  
Advocate  
to be with you  
always,  
the Spirit  
of truth.

If you love me, you  
will keep my  
commandments.

What did Jesus say to the disciples  
to prepare them for His departure?  
Look at this page in the mirror to find out!

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



FATHER	WORLD	OBEY	COUNSELOR	SHOW
ASK	COMMAND	LIVE	SPIRIT	LOVE
FOREVER	ORPHANS	MYSELF	TRUTH	ACCEPT

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly.

1. OBYE \_\_\_\_\_
2. LVOE \_\_\_\_\_
3. ISPTRI \_\_\_\_\_
4. SWHO \_\_\_\_\_
5. UESSJ \_\_\_\_\_
6. OWRDL \_\_\_\_\_
7. TRUHT \_\_\_\_\_
8. RTAFEH \_\_\_\_\_



FATHER	OBEY	JESUS	TRUTH
WORLD	SHOW	SPIRIT	LOVE