

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

PARISH OF SEVEN HILLS

"Still a wonderful place to pray & stay."

7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills. NSW. 2147

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Parish Priest:	Fr Henry Huu Duc Tran	Parish School:	LOLO 8869 6800
Parish Office Team:	Rosie Sadipoor, Kim Dang, Frank Paiva, Laura Ilioski	Principal:	Ms Keiran Byrnes
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday	9am - 3.00pm	Reconciliation:	Saturday 4:30-5:30pm
WEEKDAY MASS:	Tues, Wed, Fri. 8.00am Thursday 9.00am	Baptismal Preparation:	15 July 2026
WEEKEND MASS:	Saturday Vigil 6pm Sunday 8am & 9.30am	Baptism:	24 May 2026
		Sacrament Co-Ordinator:	Mrs Artelle Lenthall
		Youth Co-Ordinator:	Diana Park
		Parish Website:	www.lol7hills.org.au
		Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/LOLO7Hills/

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 17 MAY 2026 • Year A



Let us Pray for the Sick

Anna, Florence Arinanan, Lorenzo Balabat, Max Barrett, Luigi Bertinato, Irene Cabasa, Alma Caguimbal, Mary Camilleri, Joyce Cassar, John Crowther, Lawrence Charles, Hoa Chau, Mary Cortis, Pandora Crew, Emilio Cruz, Lucretia Deang, James Debattista, Christian Detera, Ben Dixon, Para Dias, Lucia Fernando, Renuka Fernando, Philippe Honore, Odette James, Mary Jordan, Takis Karapatsakis, Theresa Marini, Sandra & Kenny Mahoney, Susie Manga, Melissa Mead, Blago Milicevic, Ruben Mina, Zeferino Jayson Morales, Gary Morrissey, Yvo Periera, Michelle Pellicano, Maricar Poblete, Debra Price, Camy Ratnam, Arabella Steele, Sue Tipaldo, Chandra Sampantham, Caroline Stevenson, Vivian Tomines, Chris Wikkramatilake, Natalie Woodward, Rose White.

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

Let us Pray for the Deceased

Recently Deceased: Gerry Fernandes, Judith Kuestler, Salvatore Marra, James Muscat, Kulaseeli Perera, Daphne Perumal, Roselyne & Erwin Schulter, Carlos Snr.

Anniversaries: Gregorio Almodovar, Rolily Burac, Grech Charlie, Stella Cini, Kevin Dougherty, Mary Camenzuli, Jacqueline & Edmond Clarisse, Georgina Falzon, Mark Falzon, Monte Franco, Agostino Fantin, Ngan Siu Eng, Teodora Garcia, Zoltan Gartner, Manuel Jacob Gomez, Helen 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 Wijitr 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, Wiliam & 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.

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.lol7hills.org.au

FIRST READING *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

SECOND READING *A reading from the first letter of St Peter to the Ephesians 1:17-23*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *A reading from the first holy gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave to you.

And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FROM FR. HENRY

Dear friends,

From the Greco-Roman era, we have accounts of heroes and emperors renowned for their great achievements taken up to heaven and exalted as deities (cf. Livy History 1.16.1-8; Justin, First Apology 1.54; Dialogue with Trypho 69). In the Old Testaments, there are stories of various ancient holy figures taken up to heaven too, such as Enoch (cf Gen 5.24) and Elijah (2 Kgs 2.1-14). For these peoples, their ascension was considered as a divine approval of their holiness and greatness, and it is completely different to Jesus' Ascension whose feast we celebrate this Sunday. In Jesus' case, he needs no divine approval for anything, since he himself is divine as the Son of God. So his Ascension was meant to mark his return to heaven, as the Lord of heaven and earth in order to prepare for us (his followers) a place in his Father's House as he promised us in the Gospel of John for the fifth Sunday of Easter. We believe that he will come again in glory to judge all peoples and nations on earth at the end time, as the angels told the disciples in the first reading. Thus this feast, in a way, is meant to strengthen our hope for a re-union with Jesus in the place where he ascended to, namely heaven.

For the feast of the Lord's Ascension, we have the privilege to listen to two accounts of this event. One in the first reading and the other in the Gospel. In the first reading, the writer of the Acts of the Apostles informs us of the exact duration, 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and Ascension, during which Jesus appeared many times to the disciples to teach them and even share a meal with them. Despite their different recollections of the event, both writers in general, convey the same message – Jesus' instructions to the disciples post-Ascension. In the first reading, Jesus requested that the disciples be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, and in the Gospel, he encouraged them to go and make disciples of all the nations by baptising them in the name of the Trinity of God and to teach them to observe his commandments. Regardless of his physical Ascension, Jesus promised to continue to be with his followers. As we know, he continues to be with us through the works of the Holy Spirit, through his life-giving words and through the sacraments we celebrate, especially the Eucharist in which he gives us his body and blood as food to help us grow spiritually.

Let us thank Jesus today for his grace, to help us remain connected to him through the bond of his Good News and his sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. And to remain ever focused on the place he has gone ahead to prepare for us, in all that we say and do in our everyday lives, as his faithful witnesses.
Have a heaven-oriented week,

Fr Henry

PARISH NEWS...

NEW ALTAR SERVERS – TRAINING AND INSTALLATION

Thank you to those children who signed up to this ministry. All new Altar Servers will have a **training session after the 9.30AM Mass on the feast of the Ascension on Sunday 17 May** and need to attend the **Installation Mass at 9.30AM on Pentecost Sunday 24 May**. Please keep them in your prayers.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS 5PM

This 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.

HALL CANOPY UPDATE

The next stage of construction will commence on Monday 18 May with the installation of the steel columns. This will be followed by the installation of the roof. 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.

REPORT FROM THE LAST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Apart from the reports of our various Parish Group's, the Parish Pastoral Council revisited our Pastoral Plan 2026-2030 and decided to focus on developing our IT ministry, particularly our website and social media platforms. Consequently, a meeting has been arranged on Wednesday 20-May at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room to define how we move forward. All IT experts in our Parish are invited to join the meeting.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

Playgroup has resumed for 2026 for a Friday. 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 'Lourdes Play Group' or contact Maria on 0432 174 056.

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 via the pew envelopes or at parracatholic.org/appeal Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.

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.

PARISH BIN ROSTER - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking volunteers to assist 4 times a year to place the Parish bins on the kerbside (Grantham Road) once a week on Tuesday. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help out. *Thank you.*

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 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.

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.

OLOL SAFEGUARDING NEWS

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

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>.

Working With Children Check Reminder

Here at OLOL Parish all our volunteers and staff have had a WWCC. It is important that your current WWCC number is renewed rather than applying for a new Check. If your WWCC is due to expire and you have not received an email from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, please contact the OCG for further information. NB: If you have forgotten your WWCC number or are unsure which email address your WWCC number is registered to, please contact the OCG on (02) 92867219.

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

Annual Laudato Si' Week: Saturday 17 May – Sunday 24 May

Join the Catholic Church across Australia and Catholics around the world in celebrating Laudato Si' Week. This annual commemoration of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' encourages us to care more deeply for God's creation. This Laudato Si' Week and Pentecost, let us gather in community to nurture "seeds of hope" for our suffering planet. Can we also continue to pray as Pope Leo XIV encourages us to offer "a prayer to the Lord who conquered death without weapons or violence." You can find more ideas for contemplation and action, resources, and events in the following sections:

Laudato Si: <https://LaudatoSiWeek.org>

Caritas: <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/laudato-si-week-parish/>

National Reconciliation week: Mount Druitt Reconciliation Walk

Please join Catholic Care and Holy Family Parish Emerton at the Reconciliation Walk and Gathering on Saturday 23 May, 10am – 1pm at Dawson Mall in Mount Druitt. There will be activities for the whole family including stage entertainment, stalls, Dreamtime stories, cultural workshops, art displays and stalls. The Reconciliation Walk will commence at 11am.

Ministry of Care courses: 3-24 June

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

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is a safe place for those young people who choose to come to our Church Youth Groups to deepen their faith. Here at OLOL Seven Hills we:

- Create a safe and inclusive place for all young people
- Ensure all those who facilitate Youth Groups act and speak appropriately when working with children
- Conduct our Youth Ministry within the expectations of the legal requirements of Child Protection / Safeguarding and Diocesan Policies.

OLOL Vulnerable People's Participation

We are a Catholic community that champions the practice of supporting & engaging, listening and communicating with those who are most vulnerable such as children and young people. This in return encourages their participation.

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 REGINA CAELI

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

In today's Gospel, we hear some of the words Jesus addressed to his disciples during the Last Supper. As he turns the bread and wine into a living expression of his love, Christ says: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15). This statement frees us from the misconception that we are loved because we keep the commandments, as if our righteousness were a prerequisite for God's love. On the contrary, God's love is the basis for our righteousness. We truly keep the commandments according to God's will when we recognize his love for us, just as Christ revealed it to the world. Jesus' words are therefore an invitation to enter into a relationship, not a blackmail or a suspicious ultimatum.

This is why the Lord commands us to love one another as he has loved us (cf. Jn 13:34): it is Jesus' love that begets love within us. Christ himself is the standard, the measure of true love: the love that is faithful forever, pure and unconditional. The love that knows no "buts" or "maybes;" the love that gives of itself without seeking to possess; the love that gives life without taking anything in return. Because God loved us first, we too can love, and when we truly love God, we truly love one another. It is like life itself: just as only those who have received life can live, so too, only those who have been loved can love. The Lord's commandments are therefore a way of life that heal us from false loves. They are a spiritual lifestyle that is a path towards salvation.

It is precisely because he loves us that the Lord does not leave us alone in life's trials; he promises us the Paraclete, that is, the Advocate, the "Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:17). This gift is one that "the world cannot receive" (ibid.), as long as it persists in evil, oppressing the poor, excluding the weak and killing the innocent. Those who respond to Jesus' love for all, on the other hand, will find in the Holy Spirit an ally who will never fail: "You know him," says Jesus, "for he dwells with you, and will be in you" (ibid.). We can therefore bear witness to God, who is love, always and everywhere. Love is not an idea of the human mind, but the reality of divine life, through which all things were created out of nothing and redeemed from death.

By offering us true and eternal love, Jesus shares with us his identity as the beloved Son: "I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (v. 20). This all-encompassing communion of life refutes the Accuser — the Paraclete's adversary, the spirit opposed to our defender. In fact, while the Holy Spirit is the power of truth, the Accuser is the "father of lies" (Jn 8:44), who seeks to set humanity against God and people against one another: the very opposite of what Jesus does by saving us from evil and uniting us as a people of brothers and sisters in the Church.

Dear friends, filled with gratitude for this gift, let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Love.

After the Regina Caeli prayer:

Dear brothers and sisters,

I have learned with deep concern of the reports regarding the growing violence in the Sahel region, particularly in Chad and Mali, which have recently suffered terrorist attacks. I offer the assurance of my heartfelt prayers for the victims and my spiritual closeness to all those who are suffering as a result of the tragic events. I fervently hope that every form of violence may cease, and I encourage all efforts aimed at fostering peace and development in that beloved land.

Each year, on 10 May, we celebrate the "Day of Coptic-Catholic Friendship". I extend my fraternal greetings to His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and assure the entire beloved Coptic Church of my remembrance in prayer. It is my hope that our journey of friendship will lead us to perfect unity in Christ, who has called us "friends" (cf. Jn 15:15).

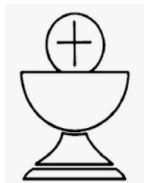
And now, I cordially welcome all of you, the faithful of Rome and pilgrims from various countries!

In a particular way, I greet the group "Guardie d'Onore al Sacro Cuore di Gesù," from various cities throughout Italy as well as the "Volontari per l'evangelizzazione" connected with the Radio Maria family. I also warmly greet the volunteers of the association "Komen Italia," whom I thank for their commitment to breast cancer prevention.

I would like to thank the people of the Canary Islands who, with the hospitality characteristic of them, welcomed the cruise ship Hondius and the passengers infected with the Hantavirus. I look forward to seeing all of you next month during my visit to the Islands.

Today, we especially remember all mothers. Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our own Mother, let us pray with love and gratitude for every mother, particularly those living in very difficult circumstances. Thank you! May God bless you!

I wish everyone a blessed Sunday.



POPE LEO: VIRGIN MARY IS PERFECT MODEL OF WHAT THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO BE

During his weekly General Audience, and on the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Leo XIV emphasizes how the Blessed Virgin Mary is the perfect model, member and mother of the Church.

By Isabella H. de Carvalho

On the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, Pope Leo XIV highlighted how the Blessed Virgin Mary is a model, member and mother of the ecclesial community and she teaches all the faithful to love and serve the Church.

“The mystery of the Church is also reflected in the Virgin Mary: in Her, the people of God find the representation of their origin, their model and their homeland,” he said in his catechesis during the Wednesday General Audience in St. Peter’s Square. “In the Mother of the Lord, the Church contemplates her own mystery, not only because she finds in Her the model of virginal faith, maternal charity and the spousal covenant to which she is called, but also and above all because in Her she recognizes her own archetype, the ideal figure of what she is called to be.” Pope Leo XIV continued his catechesis series on the Documents of the Second Vatican Council, reflecting again on the 1964 Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium*, whose last chapter focuses on the Virgin Mary.

Do I ask Mary for help?

In emphasizing how Our Lady can be a model for the Church, the Pope called the faithful to “ask Her to help us, through Her intercession, to respond to what is asked of us through Her example.” In this regard he asked a series of questions to help us reflect:

“Do I live my participation of the Church with humble and active faith? Do I recognize in her the community of the covenant that God has given me to respond to His infinite love? Do I feel that I am a living part of the Church, in obedience to the pastors given by God? Do I look to Mary as a model, an outstanding member and Mother of the Church, and ask Her to help me be a faithful disciple of her Son?”

Model, member and mother of the Church

Citing *Lumen gentium*, the Pope pointed out how it invites us to recognize in Mary “the model and the pre-eminent member and mother of the entire ecclesial community.” Shaped by God’s grace and by welcoming Jesus through her faith and “virginal love,” Mary is the “perfect model of what the Church is called to be: a creature of the Word of the Lord and mother of the children of God, begotten in docility to the action of the Holy Spirit,” the Pope explained. He also emphasized how she is “an excellent member of the ecclesial community” as she is the “believer *par excellence*” and was unconditionally open to the divine mystery. Then the Pope highlighted that she is “the mother of the whole Church” as she “brings forth children” in Christ and all the faithful can “turn to her with filial confidence, in the certainty of being heard, protected and loved.”

A woman icon of the Mystery

The Pope then explained how these three characteristics can be summarized by defining the Virgin Mary as “a woman who is the icon of the Mystery.” He underlined how the word “woman highlights the historical reality of this young daughter of Israel,” to whom it was granted to become the mother of Jesus. Then the word icon shows how “in Her, both God’s gratuitous election and Her free consent of faith in Him shine forth.” “Mary is therefore the woman who is the icon of the Mystery, that is, of the divine plan of salvation, once hidden and now revealed in its fullness in Jesus Christ,” he said.

May the love for the Church grow in all of us

The Pope also noted that the “Council has left us clear teaching on the unique place reserved to the Virgin Mary in the work of Redemption.” The “sole mediator of salvation is Jesus Christ” and his mother “fosters the immediate union of the faithful” with Him, Pope Leo explained, citing *Lumen gentium*.

Lastly the Pope invoked the Holy Spirit so that it may grant to all the grace to live fully in the Church.

“Having reflected deeply on the Constitution *Lumen gentium*, let us ask the Virgin to obtain this gift for us: that love for the Holy Mother Church may grow in all of us,” he concluded.

POPE LEO IN RECENT VISIT TO NAPLES: CHURCH MUST OFFER CLOSENESS AMID INEQUALITIES AND DIFFICULTIES

In an address to the clergy and religious of the Church in Naples, Pope Leo XIV encourages the faithful to bear witness to Christ when confronting the difficult realities affecting the southern Italian city.

By Isabella H. de Carvalho (extract)

Every member of the Church – priests, religious and laypeople – is called to be a strong presence as a witness of Christ’s love, especially in the face of injustices and difficulties, Pope Leo XIV said in a meeting with the clergy and religious in Naples on Friday. “In a city marked by inequality, youth unemployment, school dropouts, and family instability, the proclamation of the Gospel cannot be separated from a concrete and supportive presence that involves everyone—priests, religious, and laypeople alike,” he underlined in his address at the Naples Cathedral. “Don’t forget: you are part of a love story—that of the Lord for His people—which began before you and will not end with you; you are part of it as unique and indispensable pieces; you are part of it so that, even amid the dense shadows of darkness, you may turn on a light,” he continued. “Do not be afraid, do not lose heart, and be, for this Church and for this city, witnesses of Christ and sowers of the future!”

Pope Leo XIV visited Naples and Pompeii on May 8, as he marked the first anniversary of his election to the See of Peter. In the morning, he celebrated Mass in Pompeii, met with local representatives of charity initiatives connected to the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii, and prayed to Our Lady of Pompeii, before traveling in the afternoon to Naples by helicopter to meet the clergy and later the local population. Cardinal Domenico Battaglia, Archbishop of Naples, was present at the meeting in the Cathedral and gave an address. Pope Leo XIV also held up the reliquary containing the ampoules of the blood of Saint Januarius, patron saint of the city, and prayed before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel dedicated to the saint.

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 11th June 2026, 10.30am – 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring a plate to share.

LOURDES: LUMINATE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

For information please contact Ian Epondulan: youtholol7h@gmail.com or search 'Lourdes 7Hills Young Adults' on Facebook.

THE GROTTO: OLOL JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

We invite children aged 9-14yrs old to join our Parish junior youth group on every third Sunday of the month. For information please contact Diana Park via email: dianap@olol7hills.com.au or visit [ololyouth7hills](https://www.instagram.com/ololyouth7hills) on Instagram or search 'OLOL Youth Ministry' on Facebook.

LOURDES PLAYGROUP

OLOL Parish playgroup is a fun playtime for children aged 0 to 5 years old and their carers. It is held every Friday morning during school terms 9.00am-11.00am in the Parish Meeting Room. For further information please contact Maria Hosni 0432 174 056 or the Parish Office.

LEGION OF MARY

Thursdays at 1.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome.

CHRIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome

Vinnies Support Centres Are Available To Those In Need

The St Vincent de Paul Society has members and community-focused Vinnies Support Centres right across NSW. They provide people in immediate crisis with assistance. If you need assistance, call 131812 (option 3) to be redirected to your nearest Vinnies Support Centre. To find out more about the support that is available, visit <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nsw/find-help>. If you'd like to contribute to helping those in need in the local community through the St Vincent de Paul Society, please email Reno Abela at rael24@gmail.com.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION FOR OUR WEEKEND MASSES

With the intention to help our community to get more involved at Mass and better appreciate our share in the priesthood of the faithful, meaning our call to be priests, prophets and kings or queens of Jesus through baptism that Fr David Orr reminded us in our Parish retreat, I would like to invite all our parishioners to take part in the offertory procession, especially families that have some special celebrations in the families, such as baptisms, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or death anniversaries. Please see Fr Henry or Ernie before Mass to arrange it.

MAY 2026		
17	New Altar Servers training session	After 9:30am mass
20	IT Ministry meeting, Parish meeting room	7:30pm
24	New Altar Servers installation	9:30am

OLOL MINISTRY ROSTER

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

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: M. Simic, Yxavel.Dino 8am: M. Santos, J. Cabasa 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: Sean's Group, 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	

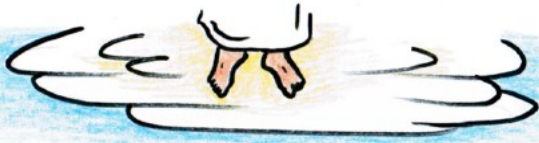
23/24 MAY

Acolytes	Vigil: Darryl Green 8am: Louis Fernandes 9.30am: Fayelene Kennedy	
Ministers	Vigil: A. Franco, B. Motha 8am: J. Mai, L. Fernandes 9.30am: A. Walker, P. Gow	
Readers	Vigil: Yxaak Dino, T. Perak 8am: K. Walker, J. Irudayaraj 9.30am: R. Saldanha, L. Rigney	
Altar Servers	Vigil: Jessica Jeganathan, Joshua Jeganathan, C. Bellamin 8am: J. Blackshaw 9.30am: A. Melki, M. Stormer, C. Smith	
Morning tea (after 9.30am Mass)	Couples for Christ	
Musicians	Vigil: Nina's Group 8am: Christine Clarke 9.30am: Nina's Group	
Flowers	Annette and Wei	
Church Cleaning	27 May	Jessie Borg Anne McNally Edgardo Barcelon
Welcomers	Vigil: Volunteer 8am: Volunteer 9.30am: Raul Graham Nigli	

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Ascension
 May 14th or May 17th, 2026

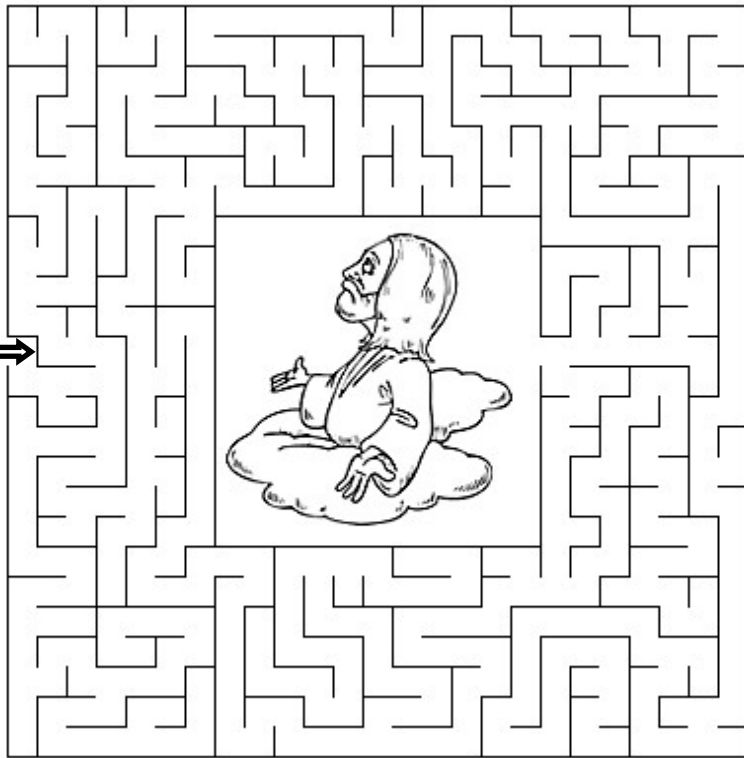
AGBOCDDMEOFUGNHTHSJHK
 ILSMTNHORPOQNRRESTTOUS
 VHWOXUYTZSAOBFCJDOEYF



What does today's Psalm say about the Ascension? Use every other letter from the box of letters above to fill in the blanks below.

G

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Disciple

Answers to True or False: T, F, F, F, T, T, F, T

True or False about... The Ascension

How well do you know the story of the Ascension? See if you know which of these are true and which are false:

1. Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days after He rose from the dead. True or false?
2. When Jesus was with His disciples after He rose from the dead, they could only see Him but they couldn't touch Him. True or false?
3. Jesus didn't tell His friends that He was going to leave them. True or false?
4. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit. True or false?
5. The disciples had gathered together and asked Jesus if He was going to restore the earthly kingdom. True or false?
6. Nobody saw Jesus rise into the sky and disappear into a cloud. True or false?
7. Two men appeared to the disciples and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you looking at the sky?" True or false?

