



— OUR LADY —
QUEEN OF PEACE

The Peaceful Voice

23rd February 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

All you need is Love... but what type?

We live today in a world of great challenges. News items speak of war, violence, acts of racism, personal attacks on others who have a different opinion. This news can bring about feelings of anger and frustration within us, and a need to blame someone for the injustices within the world.

The Gospel this weekend may be one of the most difficult passages we hear. It seems to express an idealism that is unrealistic and unattainable. How can one love someone who has hurt them? How does one love someone or not judge someone whose actions go against what you believe?

The word “love” is limited in the English language. We can say we “love hamburgers” and we can say “we love our children”. But I would doubt that hamburgers and our children are on the same level of love. The English word “love” also includes deep affection and intimate love. This one word in English has so many layers!

In the original Greek of this scripture, the word ‘love’ can have up to 30 different translations, all with a different understanding of a particular type of love. The scripture commentary, Living Space, says of this,

“Jesus is not telling us to be in love with our enemies. He is not even telling us to like them. The Greek verb which the Gospel uses is agapao from which the noun agape comes. Agape [pronounced ‘ah-gah-pay’] is a special kind of love. It is not the physically-expressed love of lovers, nor is it the love of close friends. It is rather an attitude of positive regard towards other people by which I wish for their well-being.”

The commentary goes on to say that this type of love, Agape, is the love that God has for us. God invites us into relationship, but it is our choice to say yes to that invitation. Whether we say yes or no, or if we are fully committed or have doubts, God’s love is infinite and unconditional. God’s love is offered to everyone – without exception.



Photo by Ben White on Unsplash

We only have to look at Jesus on the cross. In his last moments, Jesus says, “Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.” Jesus, after being tortured and in pain, continues to show us Agape – this type of love that seeks good of the other.

Living Space goes on to say, *“In this sense, loving our enemies seems altogether reasonable. And not only not impossible, but really the only thing to do.”*

Our challenge is to offer this type of love to others. This doesn’t mean that we have to befriend the other and give lots of time to them, especially if it could cause harm to ourselves. But within ourselves, we could begin with a prayer of offering in a positive regard wishing their well-being – just as Jesus did on the cross. As difficult as that might be, this is the call to love our enemies. That is, to see Christ in every single person. If we work towards that, then this has the potential to grow the peace and hope within us and in the world.

Lisa Bright
Ministry Support
Faith Enrichment

Reconciliation & First Communion - Enrol at www.olqp.org.au

As a parish team we look forward to supporting you, however we are able as you prepare and guide your children in the next steps of their sacramental lives of faith. **Enrolment is open for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion for children in Year 4 and above.**

Visit www.olqp.org.au for dates and to complete the enrolment form.

Enrolments for Sacrament of Confirmation will open in July 2025 for children in Year 6 and above. Enquires to: sacraments@olqp.org.au | 9631 8135



Faith B4U...

Church Cleaners & Flower Ministry

Thank you to the many wonderful people who give of their time to keep our church looking clean and beautiful to enhance our liturgies.

Can you help?

Our teams are always welcoming people to help in these important ministries. If you have a few hours a month to help, please contact the Parish Office to leave your details.

For our current teams

The sign-in book in the sacristy has been updated. Could all church cleaners and flower ministry teams ensure that they sign in and out each time they enter the Church for their ministry.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue our commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all.

Jubilee Youth Pilgrimage

Join the Diocese of Parramatta.

Young people (18-35) across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are invited to embark on an 18-day pilgrimage to the Jubilee of Youth in **Rome from 19 July – 5 August 2025**. The journey includes a visit to Greece, tracing the footsteps of Saint Paul, before heading to Rome for the celebration.

Express your interest today at parracatholic.org/jubileeyouth2025



MASS FOR PEACE

With anointing of the sick

All are warmly welcome next Saturday, **1st March**, at **10:30am**

Mass for Peace is offered regularly at OLQP on the First Saturday of each month (except January)

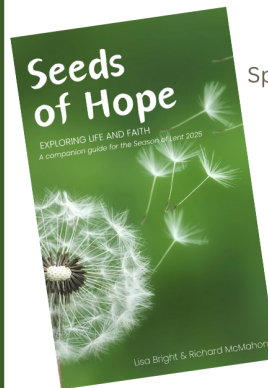
World Day of Prayer 2025

Focus Country: The Cook Islands.

Join people of different Christian Faiths celebrating and remembering Women of faith from all around the world. Join in a prayer service on **Friday 7th March at 10am**

Greystanes Uniting Church, Cnr Cumberland & Eldridge Rds , Greystanes

Lenten Reflection Groups



Spend time with others reflecting on scripture this Lent with the theme of hope in this Jubilee Year.

Each week we will reflect on the Gospel for the following Sunday.

Tuesdays 10am - 11am

4, 11, 18, 25 March, 1, 8 April

Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm

12, 19, 26 March, 2, 9 April

in the Youth Room next to the Church.

Reflection Guides available for purchase at the Parish Office - \$5.

Register for a group via the sign up sheets in the Church or the Parish Office or call - 9631 8135. All welcome.



Pilgrimage 2025

Fr. Clifford D'souza is inviting you to join him on a pilgrimage to the saints of Portugal, Spain, France and Italy- Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Nevers, Lisieux, Paris, Padova, Assisi and Rome. 31 August- 19 September 2025.

For more details please contact Fr. Clifford on:

cliff_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au or

atitours.com.au/

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, John Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boisset, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Elaine Candappa, Veronica D'Souza, Annie Gomes

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.*

Rich Hearrell, Kathy Stanley

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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Safeguarding is a priority at OLOP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

ONLINE: To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

IN PERSON TRAINING: To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>

For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you volunteer at the parish and are unfamiliar with Safeguarding, please contact the parish office for more details.

Helping Others ...

Please consider donating the following items to:

Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) who are in urgent need of the following items.

NON PERISHABLE FOOD:

Sugar | Salt | Condensed Milk | Dry Chickpeas | Instant Coffee | Tea Bags | Instant Noodles

WOMEN AND BABY ITEMS:

Women's Deodorant | Nappies | Sanitary Items | Baby Wipes

Donated food can be placed into the JRS basket located in the Narthex (main church entrance).

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

1 Samuel

26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians

15:45-49

Gospel

Luke

6:27-38

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Sirach

27:4-7

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians

15:54-58

Gospel

Luke

6:39-45

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary



Share the joy of celebrating our faith with the children of our parish!

Be part of the

Children's Liturgy Team

Children's Liturgy is celebrated at 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday Masses during the school term.

Call the Parish Office on 9631 8135 for more information to become a leader or helper for this enriching ministry.

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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