



# Weekly Bulletin

**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish**

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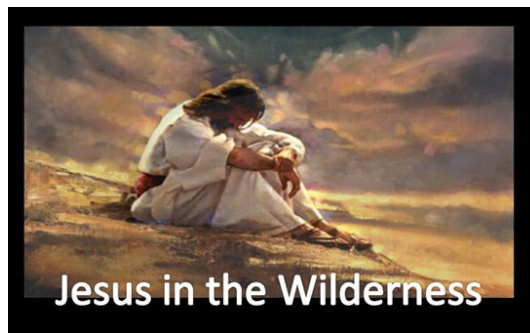
**First Sunday of Lent in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**Sunday, 18th February 2024**

## “NO ONE REACHES THE PROMISED LAND WITHOUT WALKING THROUGH THE DESERT”

The Desert: It was a place abounding with danger—inhabited by wild animals, snakes, and scorpions, and other creepy and crawly things all scrambling for survival. It was the refuge of bandits and the discarded of society. And it was believed to be the abode of demons. Not a friendly place. We imagine it as it is depicted in movies—where the sun is blazing; where it is oppressively hot and devoid of water; a place where people easily get lost and wander and die.

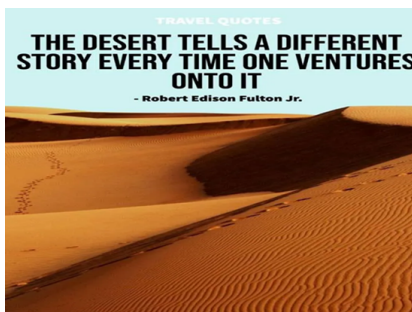
The Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years; a generation-long. It was where their faith and confidence in God was tested. It is where they gave up on God and turned away from Him. But God stayed with them, fed them and sustained them and eventually led them out.



It is where the Spirit drove Jesus to spend 40 days. It is there that he encountered Satan—“he did not avoid the devil nor did he underestimate him, but he contended with him and wrestled with him.” Jesus battled against evil. In that worst of places; in that harshest of environments; “among wild beasts.” He was not spared from the human situation, from temptation, from struggle. He confronted it all.

Lent began just days ago when ashes were smeared on our foreheads reminding us that “a death sentence awaits us in this life; that we will have an end.” Lent, it conjures up all kinds of images—giving up things, going without, “pushing away something you like,” and sacrifice. How about “repent?” It’s one of Jesus’ last words in today’s Gospel. That’s a good image for Lent—repent.

Every year around this time the Church brings us out to the desert; to the desert of our own hearts and consciences. This sojourn in the desert, like the Jews so long ago, can be difficult and painful as we confront our sense of distance from God. And it can also be for us, as it was for Jesus, a time of hard testing, when we wander and we struggle against evil. “The struggle with evil begins with the struggle within ourselves, and that struggle depends upon self-knowledge”—our limitations, our brokenness, our sinfulness, our need for forgiveness. We find evil just about everywhere we go in every aspect of our lives—driving back and forth to work, or traveling on business trips, doing homework assignments, meeting deadlines, coping with financial stress, at shopping malls, on the Internet, and in relationships with one another..



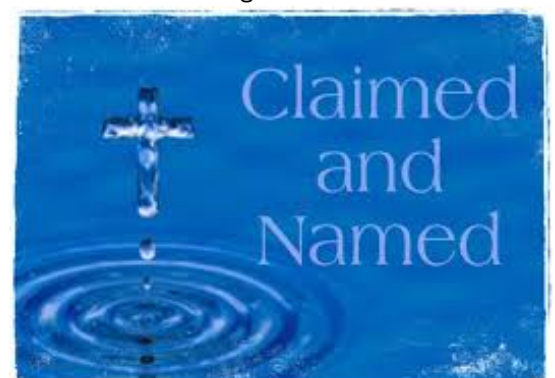
We were all once taught that sin was turning our backs on God. But it’s much more than that. Sin is like having a heated argument with someone we love and it gets out of control, and we end up slapping them across the face. That’s what happens when we sin—we slap God in the face, tell Him we don’t need Him, spin on our heel, and walk away from Him.

So here we are in the desert, and for now, and the 40-day stretch ahead of us, there is no better place to be. And there’s no better time to acknowledge the temptations that have become our sins. It’s not fun; it’s not easy, but we don’t have to do it on our own. We can bring it to the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation—tell the whole truth about ourselves, end our wait, our feet-dragging and our excuse-making.

When was the last time we went to confession? We were once claimed for Christ at our baptisms. We have 40 days to decide if we want to take ownership of that claim and renew that claim to Christ. God has not given up on us despite our sin and our failures. This Easter, when those questions are asked of us—“Do you reject sin? Do you reject the glamour of evil? Do you reject Satan? Do you believe in God the Father, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, in the Holy Spirit?” will we be able to resoundingly proclaim at the top of our voices, with every ounce of conviction, with a complete resolve of faith, “I do!” and really.” (Sources duly acknowledged)

**God’s blessings**

**Fr. Vince**



# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

## First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

*There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9

***R.** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth  
to those who keep your covenant.*

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

*The water on which the Ark floated is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, 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, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

*Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him*

*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.*

*After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'*

## Communion Antiphon:

One does not live on bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the  
mouth of God.

# PARISH ROSTERS

**24/25 February 2024**

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Lynette Rodrigues	Eli Ogrizek Sr Maureen	Oscar G Jemma L	Diane O'Shea Kathy Saad	Lawrence Tsang Dominic Rodrigues Lynnette Rodrigues	Marthe Nalletamby Jing Tapiador	Barbara Rosario Lynette Rodrigues
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Naom Younis	Helen Wong Ron Della Vedova		Helen Wong Barbara Rosario			
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Glenys Oxlee	Samuel Yu Lorna Argal	Tashen W Tashnie W	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade			

**2/3 March 2024**

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	George Davidson	Lynette Rodrigues Maddison Boulous	Judah M Isabella W	Maddison Boulous Susan Boulous	Patrick Edouard-Betsy Geoff Rosario Barbara Rosario	Anton & Anne Fernando	Linda Tsang Lily Hon Grace Coco Gabriella Spinetti Shiela Tapiador
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Christopher Younis	Anne Marie Lyons Gail Dick		Lina Flores Helen Wong			
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Lynette Rodrigues	Danny Yu Julia Tapiador	Theo M Amandi D	Elaine Gade Evelyn Artiaga			

**Let us pray for ...**

*Sick*

Maree Buttenshaw,  
Robert Power

*Recently Deceased*

Noelene Wilkinson, Jaime Pablacio,  
Fr Kevin Bates SM,  
Deryk Anthony Rodrigues, Ilias Atie,  
Mary Hanna, Sergio Montano Sanchez

*Anniversaries*

Trudi Fisher

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### VISIT BY FR PETER WILLIAMS TO RYDALMERE PARISH

Fr Peter Williams, Vicar General for the Diocese of Parramatta will be visiting our parish on **Thursday 22nd February at 7pm** to discuss the Adoration Chapel & other matters.

*All interested parishioners are encouraged to attend the meeting and bring along any questions you may have.*

**Let us be united in Jesus and build up our parish community.**

On Monday 19th Feb at 7pm, Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA will visit St Kevin's Parish Eastwood (36 Hillview Rd Eastwood) to celebrate a Holy Mass with Eucharistic Healing Service and Devotions.



### Holy Name of Mary Lenten Activities

Lenten Reflection  
Wednesdays 7pm-8pm

Stations of the Cross  
Fridays 7pm

*All are welcome!*



### Adult Faith Formation opportunities in 2024

- Preparing for marriage or know couples who are?
- Looking to learn more about the Bible, spirituality, theology or practical skills for ministry?

Searching for encouragement and growth by listening to life & faith stories from adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s?

View and share a copy of the 2024 adult faith formation calendar (link: <https://shorturl.at/grLV3>) OR get in touch with the team to learn about more formation opportunities via [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)

### Young Adult Faith Formation: 3 March

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions continue on **Sunday 3rd March 2024** at The Hustle (Unit 4, 4-6 Purdy Rd Minchinbury) at 7pm. The speaker is Monica Doumit who will talk about and lead discussion on 'How to speak about Hot Topics in the public sphere'. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza and fellowship! If you have any questions please call Mark on 0477004687.



Sacramental Prep  
First Reconciliation & Eucharist

*Enrolment Form for Sacrament of  
Penance - Reconciliation 2024*

*And  
First Holy Communion 2024*  
Forms are located at the back of  
the church.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



## Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 24 – 25 February

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 24 and 25 February, with future dates in May, August and November 2024. For further information and to register, visit [www.engagedencounter.org.au/](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au/)

## Project Compassion First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.



Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

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**Please donate to Project Compassion.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

## Saints of the Week

20th February

St Jacinta &  
St Fancesco of Fatima

21st February

St Peter Damian

22nd February

The Chair of St Peter  
the Apostle

23rd February

St Polycarp

The feast of The Chair of St Peter the Apostle commemorates the teaching authority of the Vicar of Christ and the Magisterium of the Church.

*I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. (Mt 16:18)*

The Church stands firm upon the rock of Peter. Peter's faith stands firm upon the rock of God's Word made flesh in Jesus Christ.



### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue - Wed - Thu - Fri - Sat 9:15 am

### SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

### ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 am

### BAPTISM:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the  
Month 11:30 am

## PARISH TEAM

**Fr. Vincent Savarimuthu**

Parish Priest

**Jodie MacGregor**

Parish Secretary

Tue / Wed / Fri  
10am to 5pm

**Susie Lee**

Finance Secretary

Thur  
10am to 2pm

Sacramental Coordinator

Childrens Liturgy Coordinator

Lectors Coordinator

Senior Server Coordinator

Finance Chairman

St Vincent De Paul President

Rydalmen Coordinator

Diane O'Shea

Allison Markarian

Glenys Oxlee

Anton Massillamany

Ron Della Vedova

Ron Della Vedova

Shane Young

## PARISH SCHOOLS

**St. Mary's Primary School**

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere NSW 2116

Ph: (02) 8844 5700

Email: [StMarysRydal@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:StMarysRydal@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Richard Blissenden

**St. Patrick's Marist College**

171 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117

Ph: (02) 8841 7900

Email: [stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Paul Ryan