



# Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

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Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

Sunday, 25th February 2024

**“Sometimes God closes doors because it’s time to MOVE forward. He knows you won’t move unless your circumstances force you. Trust the transitions God’s got you!” (Author unknown)**

We all have ‘mountain top experiences’, ‘aha times’ and ‘beloved moments’ in our lives which fill our lives with joy and fulfillment like a promotion, a wedding, the start of a family, the birth of the first child, getting a job and so on. Like Peter in the gospel, we would expect these moments to stay permanent and we don’t want to leave the joy and comfort of these ‘peak moments. “Let’s build three tents (booths) here and reside where it’s secure and blissful,” Peter said. We are one with Peter for sure. But the reality is that life brings its own ‘downhill’ experiences as well.



The low points of life may be adversities like the sudden death of a loved one, a financial crisis, a serious sickness, a failed marriage and so on. It is but very human and natural that we don’t want to go down to such debilitating, unnerving experiences. We feel discouraged and even cop out in the face of such misfortunes of life. Again, we are one with Peter saying that we don’t want to go down the valley. Against such trajectory of life, the transfiguration of Jesus this Sunday (Gospel) invites us to imbibe the attitude of Jesus and Abraham, Father of our Faith (first reading) and rise from adversities with the firm and certain hope that God is there with us to get through the struggles of life.

*As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.*

*He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. “Well,” the trainer said, “when they are very young and much smaller, we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free.” The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn’t, they were stuck right where they were.*



The Elephant Rope

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before? Failures are the stepping stones of our victory or glory. Besides, ‘the downhill’ moments enlighten us to understand the purpose of trials, suffering, testing and making sacrifices. We enter prayer with anger in our hearts, we come out in forgiveness; we go to the Lord in confusion, we come out in enlightenment; we go with our struggles, and we come away with strength to face them. We go with our doubts, and we come back with understanding. The sacrament of confession becomes a transfiguration for a good number of people who feel understood, comforted, and empowered to face the hard realities of life after celebrating the Sacrament. (Source acknowledged). The darkest moments of our life become in turn the most transfiguration moments!



The readings of this Sunday mirror the truth that our faith-life has mountain peak and low or valley moments in life” But, Jesus is travelling with us through and through!

**God’s blessings  
Fr. Vince**

# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek:  
hide not your face from me.

## First Reading: *Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18*

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

## Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 115(116):10,15-19*

*R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the Land of the living.*

I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the house of the Lord  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

## Second Reading: *Romans 8:31-34*

*God did not spare his own son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

## Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel: *Mark 9:2-10*

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

## Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.

# PARISH ROSTERS

**2/3 March 2024**

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	George Davidson	Maddison Boulous Anne-Marie Hewkins	Judah M Isabella W	Maddison Boulous Susan Boulos	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	Ron Della Vedova Anton Fernando		Lina Flores Helen Wong			
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Lynette Rodrigues	Julia Tapiador Linda Tsang	Theo M Amandi D	Elaine Gade Evelyn Artiaga			

**9/10 March 2024**

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Lynette Rodrigues	Romeo Urgueza Yolanda Urqueza	Oscar G Matilda S	Michelle Acharya Sue Farrar	Patrick Edouard- Betsy Bill O'Shea	Sue Galletto Robert Saad	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Anne Marie Lyons	Gail Dick Helen Wong		Lina Flores Barbara Rosario			
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Vartguess Markarian	Jessica Tapiador Lorna Argal	Angelina B Isabella C	Sheila Tapiador 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*

Helena Raoul & family, Josephine Khoury, Fr  
Lawrence Vincent Pedemont, Fr George O'Mara,  
Dora Karam, Albert Yen, Sayu Ketut Utari, Alfio  
Zappala

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.

### Holy Name of Mary Lenten Activities

Lenten Reflection  
Wednesdays 7pm-8pm

Stations of the Cross  
Fridays 7pm

*All are welcome!*



### First Friday Devotion and Stations of the Cross

Holy Mass will be celebrated after Stations of the Cross

**Friday 1st March 2024**

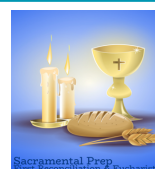
### Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunity for Cycle 1

Have you had a chance to complete your first three Mandatory Safeguarding Modules as yet? Face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown on Tuesday mornings in March.

- Module 1: Tuesday 5 March (10.00am – 11.00am)
- Module 2: Tuesday 12 March (10.00am – 11.30am)
- Module 3: Tuesday 19 March (10.00am – 11.30am)

To register visit <https://parrocatholic.org/connect/events/?topic=safeguarding>

*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

## Announcement

We are delighted to announce this Easter the Parish will have a new Pascal Candle Stand at a cost of \$1,920.00  
If you wish to donate, kindly contact the Parish Office.



## Project Compassion Second Sunday of Lent 24 & 25 February



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible

environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

**Please donate to Project Compassion.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for **all future generations.**

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

25th February

St Walburga

27th February

St Gregory of Narek

St. Walburga, was the daughter of St. Richard, a Saxon prince or chieftain in the kingdom of Wessex, England.

She was one of the nuns who answered the call of St. Boniface to establish a convent in the newly evangelised areas of Germany, under the direction of St. Lioba, in the year 748.



St. Walburga was appointed abbess of the convent of a double monastery founded by St. Winnebald. On his death in 761 she ruled the whole monastery.

Miraculous fluid appears from the rocks on which Walburga's relics rest. This fluid is known as "oil of St. Waburga", has effected many cures and is still available from her shrine.

*St. Walburga is patron for those caught in storms, fearful of water, and sailors.*

## 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

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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