



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

Sunday, 10th March 2024

"THE DARKNESS CAN BE A TEACHER, GUIDING US TOWARDS THE LIGHT" - UNKNOWN

A pastor heard that one of his parishioners was going about announcing to everyone that he would no longer attend church services. This rebellious parishioner was advancing the familiar argument that he could communicate with God just as easily out in the fields with nature as his setting for worship. One winter evening, the pastor called on him for a friendly visit. The two men sat before the fireplace making small talk, but studiously avoiding the issue of church attendance. After a while, the pastor took the tongs from the rack next to the fireplace and pulled a single coal from the fire. He placed the glowing ember on the hearth. As the two watched in silence, the coal quickly ceased burning and turned an ashen grey, while the other coals in the fire continued to burn brightly. The pastor's silent message was not lost on the parishioner. After a long pause, he turned to the pastor and said, "I'll be back at services next Sunday." - A man hidden in darkness found a great Light.

Mother Teresa was interviewed on American television a few years ago. She said, "It is very, very important, that the families teach their children to pray and pray with them." Then she added, "And we have enough reason to trust God, because when we look at the cross, we understand how much Jesus loved us. It is wonderful to be able to come to Jesus! That's why God made Him - to be our bread of life, to give us life! And with His life comes new life! New energy! New peace! New joy! Everything is new! And I think that's what brings glory to God, also, and it brings peace." Then she said, "I've seen families suffer so much, and when they've been brought to Jesus, it changes their whole lives."

In today's readings, we are challenged to reflect on God's immeasurable love for humanity and its implications for us. The concept "love of God" could mean either God's love for us or our love for God but in this period of lent, we consider God's love for us first because it will inspire our love for God which will also be translated in our love for our neighbours.

In the first reading (2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23), the Israelites with their political and religious leaders all rebelled against God and defiled God's dwelling place. Out of love for them, God constantly sent messengers to direct and teach them, but their messages were treated with scorn. God did not abandon them but kept on watching them as they neglected His Love and wallowed in sin. Being vulnerable for being outside of God's love, they were attacked and taken into captivity by the Babylonians. When they suffered and learnt their lessons, God had to intervene because of the love He has for them by raising up a king who will proclaim their liberty, offer them treasures and help them rebuild the Temple as we see in Ezra chapter 1.

The second reading (Eph 2:4-10), also confirms this love of God not just for the Israelites alone but for all of us. It says that because of God's love for us, He was generous to us with His mercy, to the extent that even when we were spiritually dead because of our sins, He had to look for us and give us life. In our sinfulness, we run far away from God and brand ourselves enemies of God but in God's love, He finds us wherever we go, brings us nearer to Himself and brand us His friends, not by merit but by virtue of His mercy built on grace. Thus, a reflection on the love of God is a reflection on the mercy of God which brings about a salvation built on the platform of grace. That is why the reading also exhorts us never to claim to be worthy of God's salvation since it is a privilege gained through grace and not on merit. But this grace has to be activated to bear fruits through faith.

In the gospel reading (John 3:14-21), we see the apex of God's love. It recalls some significant events propelled by God's love. It was because of God's love for us that He gave out His only son so that those who believe in Him may not perish but gain eternal life. The Son of God incarnated in love came not to condemn the world but to save the world.

People only condemn themselves when they deliberately refuse...

Your life is never too messed up for God's grace & healing.

The sin of the world - social sin - can cause us to be discouraged. The problems and divisions of our society and the family, the foundation of the society and world seem so much to deal with. It seems our contemporary history of failure in following God's ways is not unlike the history described in Chronicles.

The brokenness in the families, the economic recession, unemployment crisis are still high. Today we are worried about many things. In the midst of these complexities and uncertainties of life, the gospel reminds us that God desires that we "might not perish but might have eternal life." Ephesians reminds us that there is salvation that comes by grace. At this point in human history, we are called to open ourselves once again to this grace so that we can rebuild a world of social justice and nonviolence, a world of light not darkness, a world of life not death. Now is a time for rebuilding a world of justice and peace.



The Seven Blunders of the World is a list that Mohandas Gandhi gave to his grandson Arun Gandhi on their final day together, shortly before his assassination.

Wealth without work; Pleasure without conscience; Knowledge without character; Commerce without morality; Science without humanity; Worship without sacrifice; Politics without principle.

(Sources of these reflection are duly acknowledged)

God's blessings
Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' "

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 136(137):1-6

R. *Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion:
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! **R.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

You have been saved through grace.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believed in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

PARISH ROSTERS

16/17 March 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Thomas Russo	Sr Maureen Leah Garcia	Jemma L Isabella W	Sr Maureen Diane O'Shea	David & Sue Boulous Tuti Sugita	Monica Jung	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick
Sun 8.00am	Anthony Wong	Angela Finnane Will Finnane		Lina Flores Helen Wong			
Sun 10.00am	Anne Marie Lyons	Romeo Urqueza Yolanda Urqueza	Tashen W Tashnie W	Elaine Gade Sheila Tapiador			

23/24 March 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	George Davidson	Len Farrugia Sue Farrugia	Matilda S Olivia G	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	David & Sue Boulous Tyrone Wiratunga	Susan Boulous & family	Lily Hon O. Ham Maria Greenfield
Sun 8.00am	Naom Younis	Anne Marie Lyons Ron Della Vedova		Lina Flores Barbara Rosario			
Sun 10.00am	Glenys Oxlee	Lynette Rodrigues Cynthia Oscar	Manuel S	Sheila Tapiador Evelyn Artiaga			

Let us pray for ...

Sick

Maree Buttenshaw,
Robert Power

Recently Deceased

Anthony Huynh Van Hoang, Ruby Moses,
Noelene Wilkinson,
Jaime Pablacio,
Fr Kevin Bates SM,
Deryk Anthony Rodrigues, Ilias Atie

Anniversaries

Rebecca Orsini, Delfin Gonzalez,
Piera Della Vedova, John Crawley,
Stella Thompson, Helen Turner,
Faye Cavanagh, Fraolina Stornelli,
Enea Menin

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Donations for Altar Flowers

Altar flowers help to make God's house beautiful.

Our Parish is asking for people who can,
to donate for the purchase of the Altar
flowers.

If you wish to donate, kindly
contact the Parish Office.



Holy Name of Mary Lenten Activities

Lenten Reflection
Wednesdays 7pm-8pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays 7pm

All are welcome!



Did you know?

Enrollment packages for students starting school in
2025 are currently available through the school office.
If you are planning on enrolling your child at St Mary's
please call **8844 5700** for more information.

Enrolment forms are available online via the school's website
<http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au/>



Pontifical Holy Land Good Friday Collection: 29 March

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church
to support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the
Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy
Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your
donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are
keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of
great difficulty in recent years. Make your donation this Holy Week via the
envelopes in your parish or donate directly via Commissariat of the Holy Land,
47 Victoria St. Waverley NSW 2024 or holyland@franciscans.org.au.

Divine Mercy Sunday at Holy Name of Mary

We happy to announce that we are again celebrating the
Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday here at
Holy Name of Mary Rydalmere on 7 April 2024.

We need volunteers to help with the following: Kitchen committee, Crowd
control for the procession. Children to hold the picture of our Blessed
Virgin Mary during procession.
Ushers to assist people during holy confession, as we have 4 Priests that
day : Fr Sypher FSSP, Fr Benedict, Fr Thomas Green. Someone to operate
the computer and microphones and monitors during the reflection and Holy
Mass. To volunteer or inquire, please text or call **0415998310**. God bless.



Planned Giving Envelopes will be ordered next week



**Final call for any "Thanksgiving Plan" forms.
Forms are located at the back of the church &
need to be submitted by 11 March.**

Thank you to those who have submitted their "Thanksgiving Form"

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

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

- Module 1: Tuesday 5 March (10am - 11am)
- Module 2: Tuesday 12 March (10am - 11.30am)
- Module 3: Tuesday 19 March (10am - 11.30am)



Fourth Sunday of Lent
9 & 10 March



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.



With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

"Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.



Saints of the Week

12th March
14th March

St Seraphina
St Boniface Curitan

Seraphina was born in San Gimignano, Italy, to a poor family. She was known for her self denial and acts of penance as a young girl. A mysterious illness left this beautiful girl unattractive; her eyes, feet, and hands became deformed and eventually Seraphina was paralyzed. Her mother and father both died while she was young.

She was devoted to St. Gregory the Great. She died on the feast of St. Gregory, exactly as she had been warned by Gregory in a dream. Seraphina was a very helpful child around the family home. She did many of the chores and helped her mother spin and sew.



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

Diane O'Shea

Childrens Liturgy Coordinator

Allison Markarian

Lectors Coordinator

Glenys Oxlee

Senior Server Coordinator

Anton Massillamany

Finance Chairman

Ron Della Vedova

St Vincent De Paul President

Ron Della Vedova

Rydalmen Coordinator

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

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

Principal: Mr. Paul Ryan