



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

Office: 2 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere 2116

Email: admin@holymary.org.au Phone: **(02) 9684 1541**

Website: www.holymary.org.au

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, 25 December 2024

“DON'T LET THE PAST STEAL THE PRESENT. THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS: WE ARE NEVER ALONE.”

— TAYLOR CALDWELL

Merry Christmas to you all! It is my first Christmas celebration with you, and I do appreciate everyone taking time to be a part of the Mass with the family of Holy Name of Mary parish. May these occasions fill you with warmth, peace, and cherished moments. May this Christmas inspire you and help you achieve success in all your endeavours. As we welcome the New Year 2025, may you be blessed with the peace of Christ, success, prosperity, and happiness!

May I encourage you to come on board with the various ministries and programmes in our parish that we might build up our community in every aspect that God would like this to be!

As you may be aware our parish is about to commence the construction of the parish admin/priest's residence and give a face lift to the church through new lighting, carpeting, and installing a proper security system to the church etc. Hence, your support is earnestly requested in carrying out the intended objectives. Without your support, nothing is possible. As I hear, you have been very generous towards the Church at Rydalmere, and may I request you to get in touch with me or the parish office for your generous assistance. I would like to see our community growing in faith, love, and justice.

A soldier was on duty one Christmas morning during World War II. It had been his custom to go to Church each Christmas with his family, but now stationed in an outlying district of London, that was impossible. So, with some of his soldier buddies they walked down the road as dawn was breaking. Along the way they came upon an old grey stone building with the carved words over the main door, "Queen Ann's Orphanage." They decided to enter to find out what kind of Christmas might be taking place. After knocking the soldiers went in just as the orphaned children were tumbling out of bed. There was no Christmas tree in the corner. There were no presents. The soldiers went around the room wishing the children 'Merry Christmas,' and giving them whatever they had in their pockets: a stick of gum, a piece of candy, a nickel, a dime, a pencil, a pocketknife, a good luck charm. Then the soldier who had gotten his buddies together noticed a little fellow alone in the corner. The little fellow looked an awful lot like his nephew back home, so he approached him and said, "And you, little guy, what do you want for Christmas?" The child replied, "Will you hold me?" The soldier, with tears in his eyes, picked up the little boy and held him in his arms, very close. The soldier experienced the joy that love, and Jesus brings into our life, no matter what the situation is around us!

What is the story that brings us together today? The story is about God. A God who loved every one of us so much that he sent his Son to be born and to die so that we could live forever. That story is one of love and sacrifice, suffering and redemption.

Our world presents us with so many stories each day. What are the "empires" that rule over us – materialism, militarism, consumerism, racism, individualism, nationalism? The stories from these empires are thrilling, some suspenseful. Some are tragic, some heartwarming. Some are disheartening and tragic; we are disheartened by most of the stories while some stories make us think and motivate us.

This is what the story of the incarnation of Jesus does ... it gets into us. The story of God's love and the Incarnation is at the core of who we are. We find our identity in that story. We are men and women who are so loved by God that his only Son came to live among us to save us from sin and bring us to eternal life.

Each day we need to recall this story and form our lives around it. When we are afraid, discouraged, tempted, or just numb from our burdens, this story should speak to us. It is not fiction; it is real and was written for us. It is being written anew each day.

It is a story that must be told over and over, not only in words but also in deeds: the story is retold in the act of reaching out to another in need of any kind; the story is lived every time we put our anger aside and strive for understanding; the story can very well be understood every time we forget the differences and realise our love for each other; Every time we bring hope to the disadvantaged and the broken hearted; Every time the spouses appreciate each other with sincere love; Every time the parents understand their children and guide them properly... Every time the teenagers say No to drugs, no to drunk driving, no to anti-social and immoral behaviour the story of God's love is lived out....

May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding, closer to the blessing of peace in the family, in our communities, in Australia and especially in the war-torn countries!

Looking forward to celebrating God's love in our religious and social celebrations at our parish in the weeks to follow!

God's blessings!

Fr. Vince

PARISH MINISTRY SIGN-UP

2025



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, YOU ARE INVITED TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SHEET LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

Volunteer Positions Available

- Altar Linen Washing
- Altar Servers (Junior)
- Altar Servers (Senior)
- Altar Society
- Childrens Liturgy Facilitators
- Church Cleaning
- Counters
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Lawn & Garden
- Readers

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE OUR PARISH!

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME (SECOND COLLECTION)

If you would like to support the Parish through the Planned Giving Programme (Second Collection) please complete the application form located at the back of the church.

Parishioners are encouraged to increase their contribution to the second collection via Direct Debit or Credit Card.

Thank you for your generosity and support.



Please continue to pray for the completion of the project of the Parish Admin Office and Priest Residence



Buy A Brick Donation Campaign

**No mass from 26th - 28th Dec. in the morning
Masses resume Saturday 28th December in the Evening**

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Every Wednesday 7:00pm

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

ROSARY at 3:00pm on the last Saturday of every month at Ermington Shopping Centre (near the Post Office).

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Vincent Savarimuthu
Parish Priest

Maritza Graciela
Parish Secretary
Tue/Wed/Thur/Fri
9:30am to 5:30pm

Deacon Leon
Finance Secretary
Thur
10am to 2pm

Sacramental Coordinator	Lynette Rodrigues
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	Mark Bannister
Social Celebrations Coordinator	Nancy Grugan
Parish Pastoral Council Chair	Allison Markarian

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