



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sunday, 29 December 2024

“A HAPPY FAMILY IS BUT AN EARLIER HEAVEN.”

— GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Hope you had a joyful celebration of Christmas with family and friends! I pray that we may continue to sustain the spirit of joy and love all through our days. We are about to say goodbye to the year 2024. Thankfully we lift our praises to God for having blessed us in unimaginable ways even in the midst of pain, loss and problems which are but part of our lives. On the last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family which reminds us that as the basic unit of the universal Church, and the society, each family is called to be ‘salt of the earth’ and a ‘light of the world’. The specifics of customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but the values out of which they emerge are not. Find here below the reflections by Ellen Romer Niemiec.

I struggle a lot with today’s second reading. I largely avoid it, as I imagine many people do. On a day where I love celebrating family, I have a hard time hearing the words ‘subordinate’ and ‘obey,’ especially knowing this reading has been used to justify untold amounts of harm to women and children. I have chosen to remain in a church that has communicated to me in various ways that my value as a woman is less than that of a man. Today’s letter from Paul does not offer me much consolation.

But if I take my discipleship seriously - what does it mean to skip this reading? How do I just bypass the ugly parts? Do I take seriously that this is the inspired word of God? So, I tried to do as Mary did - I held the words in my heart. And I prayed with them.

I don’t think God is asking me to offer blind obedience to my spouse, to compromise my dignity and value. That is certainly not the God that I have come to know and love. I think what God is reminding me through this call to obedience - even if I grit my teeth at that word - is that in family life, in marriage, in truly mutual relationships, we can de-center ourselves. We can imagine ourselves as part of a larger community. To live into real mutual relationships, you have to yield at some point. When I think of the word ‘subordinate’ or ‘obey’ I think of doing something because we have to, or out of obligation. But making choices from a place of love doesn’t always mean it’s exactly what we would want. And mutuality in that love, means someone is offering to yield in return. And so, we trust that we will not be asked by those we love to sacrifice our dignity, our safety, or the core of who we are.

Relationships, friendships, partnerships, and marriages are not simple and mutuality is messy. Different seasons of life means our relationships in our families have to look different - sometimes one person is carrying more of the load than the other. Sometimes we have to be the one to take a step forward. And sometimes we are the one to take a step back. Sometimes we even have the graced moments where our steps are perfectly in sync. In a time where I struggled significantly with my mental health, my spouse carried more of our family load. He is currently taking care of our family once a week so that I can begin a doctoral program. I have carried, birthed and nursed our three children. These days, we are a bit more in sync, navigating our growth together, as individuals and as a family with our children.

Hopefully, as we navigate the back and forth of sharing life together, we aren’t figuring this out on our own. Hopefully we are navigating the complexities of family and marriage in conversation, in discernment with our loved ones. The gift of mutuality is that we are not doing this by ourselves. This love that is moving us to action is not going one way.

Mutuality requires courage. Acting out of love requires courage. They are sometimes scary but nonetheless sacred acts. Joseph and Mary were asked by God to receive Jesus as their son - and not as they probably imagined when they were first betrothed. We know that Joseph was scared and tried to quietly divorce Mary. I can’t imagine what she felt during that time. She gave her ‘yes’ to God and Joseph had the humility to listen and change course. God offers us Godself in the Incarnation - wanting to be so deeply with us that God chose to be human with us.

In a time when it may seem safest to preserve ourselves as individuals and avoid the risk of vulnerability, may we heed God’s radical invitation to love one another deeply and courageously. May we choose to trust that when we act out of love for one another, that love will be shared in return and enkindle in us the desire to only love more deeply.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD’S BLESSINGS!

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph
and the Infant lying in a manger.

First reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

R: How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **R**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you,
they walk with ever growing strength. **R**

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **R**

Second reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been
revealed,

all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,

because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting among
the learned men, listening to them.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to
Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he
was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as
usual. When they were on their way home after the
feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem
without his parents knowing it. They assumed he
was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's
journey that they went to look for him among their
relations and acquaintances. When they failed to
find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for
him everywhere.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Cont. from Page 2

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Communion Antiphon:

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday 29th - **The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH**
 Wednesday 1st - **MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD**
 Thursday 2nd - **Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors**



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



New or Used Lawn Mower for the Parish Wanted

If you are able to assist, please contact
 Romeo via email: romqueza@hotmail.com

Thank you.



Let us pray for ...

Sick

Lawrence
 Joan Nayler
 Danilo De Los Reyes
 Sandra Ylagan

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

Bartlett & Butterfield Family
 Wilson & Boyd Family
 Howard & Freestone Family
 John Khalil
 Brian Oxlee

PARISH ROSTERS

4/5 January 2025

	<u>Computer Operators</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>	<u>EMHC</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Cleaning Ministry</u>	<u>Altar Society</u>
<u>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</u>	Ben Garcia	Lynette Rodrigues Leah Garcia	Oscar G Isabella W	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Kathleen Burrows	Anton & Anne Fernando	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Anthony Wong	Angela Finnane Will Finnane	Maya R Cristian A	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tuti Sugita		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Anne Fernando	Marco Tapiador Linda Tsang	Ava E Isabella C Tashnie & Tashen W	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	<u>Lawn and Garden</u>	Richard Corney	

11/12 January 2025

	<u>Computer Operators</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>	<u>EMHC</u>	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Cleaning Ministry</u>	<u>Altar Society</u>
<u>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</u>	Jenny Hendry	Sue Farrugia Len Farrugia	Matilda S Harriet S	Susan Boulos Kathy Saad	Kathleen Burrows	Marthe Nalletamby	Lily Hon O. Ham Maria Greenfield
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Christopher Younis	Barbara Rosario Rozz Morris	Daniela M Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tyrone Wiratunga	Jing Tapiador	
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Vincent Austria	Joseph Andrews Lynette Rodrigues	Angelina B Avril L	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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.



GROUP

We are working to engage young people aged between 12 and 35 to join our group.

We encourage our youth to come onboard.

If you would like to join us, we invite you to write your contact details on our Youth Group Register located at the back of the church.

The next Youth Group Meeting will be announced shortly.

For more details please contact:

Nazli Guler on 0426 243 016

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!**

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Every Wednesday 7:00pm

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

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 am

ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

BAPTISM

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

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