



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, 15 December 2024

“JOY DOES NOT SIMPLY HAPPEN TO US. WE HAVE TO CHOOSE JOY AND KEEP CHOOSING IT EVERY DAY”

– HENRI NOUWEN

There is a story told of two buckets which were kept at a well. Of the two, one was always sad and gloomy, while the other was always happy and joyful. The happy one said to the sad one - “What’s the matter with you? I see that you are always unhappy, sad, and gloomy!” The sad one said - “Oh! It is my life. When I think of it, I feel very bad and become so sad.” “What do you think of your life?” asked the first. The second replied - “Oh! When I look at my life – it is ever empty. See, however many times I come out of the well full, I always go to it empty, and this emptiness makes me very sad and gloomy.” “Oh!” said the first, “but I do not look at my life that way.” “How do you look at your life then?” inquired the second. The first replied - “Oh! I find my life always full. See, however many times I go into the well empty, I always come out full, and this fullness fills me with happiness & joy.”

We notice that the life of both the buckets is essentially the same, but their looking at it is different. And this makes one ever sad & mad, while the other is always happy & full of joy. This Third Sunday of Advent is also called "Gaudete" Sunday or "Rejoice" Sunday. "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice!" Joy is the essence of all the three readings of this Sunday. St Paul invites every one of us to “rejoice in the Lord always.” When everything goes well, there is all the reason for one to be happy and joyful but when there is a deep-seated sadness over an unfixable situation, joy feels elusive. Yet, St. Paul writes in Philippians 4:4 to rejoice always. He is writing these words in prison, and to further the matter, he later speaks of himself in the second letter to the Corinthians as being ‘sorrowful yet rejoicing.’ Certainly, he knows something that we apparently don’t. Many of us are weighed down by grim struggles such as financial constraints, illness, or loss of a beloved one or behavioral problems of the children etc. How is it possible to have joy in these scenarios? The readings today take us through a pathway that enables us to move forward with peace and joy. Pam Kanaly Co-founder, Arise Ministries shares a few thoughts on the second reading of today whose thoughts I would like to paraphrase here below.

Our joy is not based on mere emotions. For example, losing a few kilos of weight or being relieved of a long-term worry. Our joy should not be determined by outside stimuli or by the happenings around us. It does not depend on how comfortable you are, what house you live in, what car you drive, what kind of food and drink you eat and so on. Perhaps you lost your job, your health has taken a downturn, or your former husband did not pay child support. “If only circumstances were different,” we say. “Then I’d find joy.” Again, this isn’t true joy. Instead, it’s a kind of joy based on secular realities that are unpredictable, leaving one constantly vulnerable to outside elements.”

The joy that Paul is talking about is one of spiritual. It has nothing to do with our emotions or circumstances. It is not a joy based on temporal and material things. It is a joy based solely on the Lord. It is a reality that surpasses our understanding. It’s a peace that abides in the heart that knows no matter what, all is well because Jesus is in the midst of its outcome. It’s not driven or tossed by worldly issues but remains a constant inside stabilizer above emotions or circumstances (Source duly acknowledged)

The question is how we cultivate spiritual joy. It is in founding our life on Jesus, His teachings and ‘our love in action’ for those who find themselves in the human desert all around us. So, we get to pick joy that would govern our day today life: Emotional joy? Circumstantial joy? Or spiritual joy?

God’s blessings to us all!

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First reading: Zephaniah, 3:14-18

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

**℟: Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great
and Holy One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **℟**

Give thanks to the Lord,
give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **℟**

Sing a psalm to the Lord
For he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **℟**

Second reading: Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;
I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone:
the Lord is very near.
There is no need to worry;
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,
and that peace of God, which is so much greater
than we can understand, will guard your hearts
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'
There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Christmas Choir

Rehearsals for the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass, have commenced.

We welcome you all to come along and join us at rehearsals, on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the Parish, until Christmas. For any enquiries, please phone or text Catherine on 0417 060 021



Advent Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays: 7pm



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, 24th December

5:30pm - Carols followed by family Mass

9pm - Mass

(Please note there will be NO Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day, 25th December: 8am - Mass

10am - Mass

No mass from 26th - 28th Dec. in the morning

Masses resume Saturday 28th December in the Evening

APPRECIATION OF SERVICE

Congratulations

ACOLYTES - BILL GAFFNEY & LISLE HOWARD
SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR - DIANNE O'SHEA
SACRAMENTAL TEAM - SISTER MAUREEN, SUE FARRAR,
MICHAEL SOBB, JODY MCGREGOR



"RYDALMEN"

Building up fellowship among men of different age brackets

Meets on The Third Thursday of every Month

Where: Parish Meeting Room

Time : 7:15pm for 7:30pm to 9:00pm

What to Bring : *Our true self*

Next Meeting : 19th December 2024

Discussion Point : Festive Songs and passages from our journey in 2024 which we will reflect on.

Thank you!

CATECHISTS

Thank you to the wonderful small group of Catechists in our Parish that have completed another dedicated year to the children in our 5 State Schools

Your dedication and wonderful commitment are greatly appreciated.

Also, we wish to Thank Michael Sobb who is retiring after 23 Years as a Catechist in our Parish. Michael you will be greatly missed. You have shared with the children that you have taught your great faith, which I know, that they have greatly appreciated.

Lawn & Garden

Volunteer Positions Available

+

New or Used Lawn Mower Wanted

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

Thank you.



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



Let us pray for ...

Sick

Lawrence
Joan Nayler
Danilo De Los Reyes
Sandra Ylagan

Recently Deceased

Patricia Marie Charker (Pat)
Patricia Ann Dunne
John Bernard Goodall

Anniversaries

Robbie Keegan

PARISH ROSTERS

21/22 December 2024

	<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>	Lynette Rodrigues	Sr Maureen Leah Garcia	Cristian A Jemma L	Susan Boulos Kathy Saad	David & Sue Boulous	Thomas & Sophie Russo	Linda Tsang Grace Coco Gabriella Spinetti Sheila Tapiador
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Christopher Younis	Glenys Oxlee Barbara Rosario	Jensen M Judah M	Barbara Rosario Lina Flores	Marthe Nalletamby		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Juvy Austria	Nada Coorey Sam Markarian	Theo M Tashnie W Tashen W	Sheila Tapiador Evelyn Artiaga	<u>Lawn and Garden</u>	Robert Spinetti	
					<u>Children's Liturgy</u>	Sunday 22/12/2024 at 10am	

28/29 December 2024

	<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>	Eric Flores	Romeo Urqueza Yolanda Urqueza	Matilda S Harriet S	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	David & Sue Boulous	Thess Davidson & Family	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Michael Majoor	Helen Wong Glenys Oxlee	Maya R Tara C	Lina Flores Helen Wong	Bill O'Shea		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Vartguess Markarian	Julie Tapiador Khush Jilla	Angelina B Joanne J	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Your local Rydalmere Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society will be selling

10 pack Christmas Cards: \$10.00 each

Proceeds go to our St Vincent de Paul Rydalmere Conference clients.

Thank you for your support.

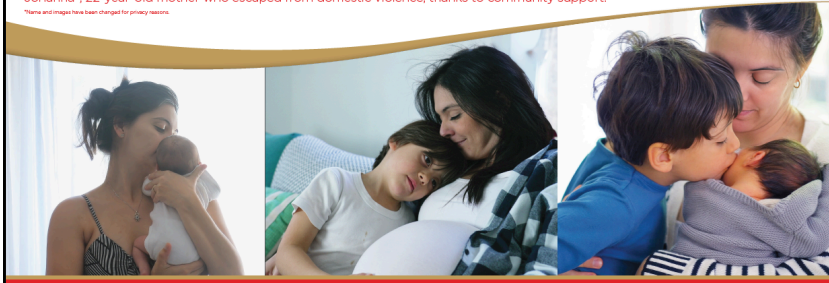
Thank you



for giving homeless mothers and children safety, support, and a place to call home.

"I was so happy and grateful to have a place to call home. I finally felt secure for the first time in a long while."

Johanna*, 22-year-old mother who escaped from domestic violence, thanks to community 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

Join Us for Our Monthly Parish Lunch

Dear Parishioners,

We're excited to invite you to our Monthly Parish Lunch! This is a wonderful opportunity to gather **once a month on a Sunday after 10am Mass** to enjoy great company and good food.

Each one pays for their own meal and drinks.

When: Sunday 22nd December 2024

Where: The Family Inn

Everyone is welcome—bring your family and friends!

This initiative aims to foster fellowship and strengthen our community ties.

For more details contact **Allison** on **0411 013 032**

If you would like to attend our next lunch, you are invited to write your name on the sheet located at the back of the church, this is to assist Allison with the booking reservation.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



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 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