



# Weekly Bulletin

**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish**

**4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere**

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**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

**Sunday, 2 February 2025**

**“BE A LAMP THEN IN HEART, IN HAND, IN LIPS. THE LAMP IN YOUR HEART WILL SHINE FOR YOU, THE LAMP IN YOUR HAND OR ON YOUR LIPS WILL SHINE OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS. THE LAMP IN THE HEART, IS LOVING FAITH, THE LAMP IN THE HAND, IS THE EXAMPLE OF GOOD WORKS, THE LAMP ON THE LIPS, IS EDIFYING SPEECH.”**

— BLESSED GUERRIC OF IGNY

After the Christmas season ended with the celebration of Jesus’ baptism, as you would expect, our Sunday readings focus again on the adult Jesus and his ministry. But today, with Christmas forty days behind us, the church circles back to a scene connected with Jesus’ birth, his presentation in the temple. What is this about? And what challenges does this text hold for us? Let’s begin with that first question.

Presenting a newborn male to the priest was a religious obligation for Jewish families. The mother, who was considered ritually unclean after birthing a son, had to wait forty days until her purification was complete—after which parents presented their son to be consecrated to the Lord in a special way. Though Luke leaves out details of the ritual, he makes it clear that Jesus was born into a family of observant Jews. Like all pious Jews, Mary and Joseph awaited God’s deliverance. But they had not realized yet that their son was the deliverer, the long-awaited lord. What Malachi the prophet had foretold in today’s first reading, was now fulfilled in Jesus. God’s promised Messiah had finally come to redeem and save God’s people.

You would think that the priests and scribes, the religious elites of their day, who studied the scriptures and looked for signs of its fulfillment, would have been the first to recognize Jesus as Messiah. But—as always in the gospels—it’s the simple faith-filled women and men, like Simeon and Anna, with hearts open to the spirit’s promptings, who get it! So, like an expectant father who holds his newborn son in his arms for the first time, Simeon is overwhelmed with joy as he holds the Messiah in his arms. He has waited not nine months, but a lifetime. What a relief! You can hear it in the words he speaks to Mary and Joseph. Jesus, the Messiah, the promised bearer of peace, light and salvation for all people has come; deliverance is here. But deliverance from what or from whom?

With few exceptions, every Jew would have said: from the oppressive rule of the Romans and the suffering they inflicted—the poverty, homelessness, slavery, the burdensome taxes that sent many to prison, the social inequities that allowed the well-fed rich of the day to step over the starving poor at their gates. To those hoping for a political messiah who would deliver them from their oppressors, Jesus was a failure. His execution by the Romans was proof that he was no Saviour.

To many, the way Jesus lived and especially the way he died only re-enforces cynicism and despair. But to others, who welcome the way of life modelled by Jesus, a life rooted in self-emptying love, built on mercy and forgiveness, where the poor are blessed and the rich sent away empty, Jesus is a consolation, and his death was not a humiliation but the ultimate expression of his love.

True, he did not eliminate the bad guys, or introduce regime change, or right every wrong in his society. Instead, he brought light to dark places and alleviated suffering, one place and one person at a time. Jesus modelled for all what it meant to be truly human so that by imitating him in love and service, the peace and the salvation he came to bring would continue.

Today in the face of so many social problems and injustices (poverty, homelessness, environmental disasters all arounds us, fires and floods), we can rail against leaders who promise to make life better, but fail to deliver, and we can give into cynicism and despair. Or, we can follow the way of Jesus, bringing light to dark places and alleviating suffering one person and one place at a time. In small acts of love and care for each other and for creation, we can extend his peace, light and salvation. We have a choice. We always have a choice. - Maria Pascuzzi, US Catholic

**God’s blessings**

**Fr. Vince**

# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of your temple.  
Your praise, O God, like your name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

## First reading: Malachi 3:1-4

*The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.*

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:7-10

### ℟: Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! ℟

Who is the king of glory?  
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,  
the Lord, the valiant in war. ℟

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! ℟

Who is he, the king of glory?  
He, the Lord of armies,  
he is the king of glory ℟

## Second reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

*He had to be made like us in all things.*

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham.

It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

## Gospel Acclamation:

### Alleluia, Alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,  
and the glory of your people, Israel.

### Alleluia!

## Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

*My eyes have seen your saving power.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome back to a new academic year!

Dear teachers and students of St Mary's,

Hope, you had a wonderful summer vacation, and you are beginning a new school year together. May you make this year unforgettable through fun, companionship, and a common love of learning. May you collaborate, learn from one another, and make this a year of growth and achievement to remember. May this year bring you closer to God and to the parish and school communities. God is with you in every step of your way. Just enjoy the new school year.



Fr. Vince



*Congratulations*  
**Elara**  
 who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism  
 this Sunday 2/02/2025  
 We welcome her to our Parish.

**OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO TO  
 RON DELLA VEDOVA AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY**  
 at the passing of his brother Peter Della Vedova.  
 May he rest in peace.

**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 

## Let us pray for ...

### *Sick*

Lawrence  
 Joan Nayler  
 Danilo De Los Reyes  
 Sandra Ylagan  
 Adrian Seah

### *Recently Deceased*

Peter Della Vedova  
 Peter Francis  
 Boyd Dominic Cleary

### *Anniversaries*

Lia Edouard-Betsy  
 Helena Raoul

## PARISH ROSTERS

### 8/9 February 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>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Eric Flores	Leah Garcia Lynette Rodrigues	Harriet S	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Dominic Rodrigues Lynette Rodrigues	Anton Massillamany	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Lindsay Keur	Angela Finnane Will Finnane	Daniela M Tara C	Lina Flores Helen Wong	Geoff Rosario Barbara Rosario		
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Eddie Appleby	Cynthia Oscar Marco Tapiador	Angelina B Avril L Chole G Olivia G	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues			

### 15/16 February 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>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Lynette Rodrigues	Sr Maureen Leah Garcia	Cristian A Jemma L	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	David Boulous Sue Boulous	Pierre Salomon	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Anne Marie Lyons	Barbara Rosario Daniel Cakarun	Jensen M Judah M	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Marthe Nalletamby		
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Elizabeth Yeo	Astrid Kossim Linda Tsang	Theo M Tashnie W Tashen W	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	<b>Lawn and Garden</b>	Richard Corney	

**Children's Liturgy** Sunday 16/2/2025 at 10am

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

## FaithLIFE Scripture Short Courses

for adults: 12-26 February

Are you looking to read the Bible more in 2025 but don't know where to start? Consider the **FREE** FaithLIFE Scripture Short Course guided by Scripture scholar,

Dr Michele Connolly RSJ.

On **Wednesdays, 12, 19, & 26 February 2025**  
at **6:30pm - 8:30pm**

Location: 1-5 Marion Street Blacktown  
-Bishop Bede Heather Centre.

**RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/faithlife>**  
**or email: [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org)**



## 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**



## 2025 CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

This year we start our sacramental program with the Sacrament of Confirmation which is offered to children in Year 5 onwards who have received their First Eucharist. If you are considering enrolling your child for the program, please provide all required documentation to the parish office.

\*Please note that enrolment is completed by attendance at the compulsory Parent Information evening.

### BELOW ARE DATES FOR THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025:

**Confirmation - Wed 21st or Friday 23rd May.**

**Completed enrolment form to parish office - Friday 7th March**

**\*Parent Information Evening - Thursday 13th March**

**Commitment Mass - 22nd / 23rd March**

**Reconciliation - Thursday 26th June**

Details for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the First Holy Eucharist to follow.

**First Eucharist - 21st Sept. 12 noon**

Enrolment forms are located at the back of the church.

### 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

<b>Sacramental Coordinator</b>	Lynette Rodrigues
<b>Childrens Liturgy Coordinator</b>	Allison Markarian
<b>Lectors Coordinator</b>	Glenys Oxlee
<b>Senior Server Coordinator</b>	Anton Massillamany
<b>Finance Chairman</b>	Ron Della Vedova
<b>St Vincent De Paul President</b>	Ron Della Vedova
<b>Rydalmen Coordinator</b>	Mark Bannister
<b>Social Celebrations Coordinator</b>	Nancy Grugan
<b>Parish Pastoral Council Chair</b>	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](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