



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

Sunday, 23 February 2025

“A FAILURE TO FORGIVE IS LIKE DRINKING POISON AND WAITING FOR THE OTHER PERSON TO DIE.”

“To love our enemy, to forgive our persecutor and to give without recompense”- sounding preposterous statements of Jesus but have radical implications in creating a compassionate society. The greatest measure of civilization boils down to “how well we gave, how well we forgave and how we lifted up the lowly”. Let me share with you some reflections on the powerful weapon of forgiveness which can uproot the deep-seated attitude of hostility for hostility or hatred for hatred or violence for violence. Let us experience the healing of our wounded self through Forgiveness- God forgives “for-giving”.

Never too late

“When I was growing up, the couple living next door had a lot of marital problems. They struggled to stay together for many years, but finally the husband’s alcoholism just got too much for the wife and she left him. After that I heard he went downhill with his alcohol problem, even ending up on the streets. Meanwhile his wife got on with her life and filed for a divorce. I presumed that was the tragic end of the relationship and never thought much more of it. Many years later I was astounded to hear that they were back together again. He was dying of cirrhosis of the liver and she had taken him in to care for him. She nursed him until the day he died. I have never forgotten this couple and I retell their story to my own children. The couple I was tempted to write off as a hopeless case has in fact been of my greatest teachers.” (Stories from the Prophet next door-compiled by Teresa Pirola)

Is it easy to forgive the wrong doers?

Forgiving someone whom we have a reason to hate is certainly not easy. Indeed, it could be argued that it is one of the most difficult things to do in our life, depending on what we have experienced at the hands of other people. In most cases we will not want to give up feeling angry towards someone as this gives us a kind of security in our emotions, it allows our dissatisfaction at a past situation to find an outlet. But if this is going to stay with us for a longer period of time, it becomes chronic and cancerous, ultimately ruining our total life. Perhaps the first step in forgiving is to think of God’s forgiveness and His compassion (Ephesians 4:32) which may serve as a springboard for us to reach out to our offenders. Maybe, we shall try to learn to see the lessons in everything that happens to us. The path to forgiveness then is made considerably easier. After all, it is the forgiver who is going to benefit out of it. Forgiveness is for myself, not for the “offender.”

Those who do not forgive, hide behind barriers built with excuses.

Anger: Anger says, "I can't forget the offense and I want to get even". Pride: Pride says "I was right and he was wrong. I don't have to forgive him". Fear: Fear says "I will only get hurt again". Jealousy: Jealousy says, "I can't let him get away with this". Emotion: Emotion says, "I don't feel like forgiving". Worry: Worry says, "What if he doesn't understand"? Guilt: Guilt says, "I cannot even forgive myself, let alone you". Self- Righteousness: which prompts one to say “You did it, and you are going to pay for it”. (Found in my diary notes, source untraceable)

Our responsibility is to always forgive those who confess their sins, repent, and seek our forgiveness. God never tells us to take an "I'll wait-and-see" approach. When others repent and seek our forgiveness, we are to grant it just as God granted us forgiveness when we sought Him. We need to learn to put away every wrong attitude that stems from bitterness, knowing that the chain reaction of bitterness eventually leads to open and public conflict, which hurts others and damages the cause of Christ in transforming humanity.

“Forgiveness is not to condone or minimize the awfulness of an atrocity or wrong. It is to recognize its ghastliness but to choose to acknowledge the essential humanity of the perpetrator and to give that perpetrator the possibility of making a new beginning.” (Desmond Tutu - Nobel Laureate, SA archbishop)

Let us ask ourselves:

- Who do you find hardest to forgive?
- Why do you think forgiveness can be so difficult? What gets in the way?
- How can we make forgiveness a lifetime habit?

Let our community grow as a forgiving community at individual, familial and community levels.

God’s blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R**

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Communion Antiphon:

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Stories to reflect in the light of the gospel

1. The great American civil rights leader Martin Luther King preached one of his most moving sermons on the title "Loving your enemies". He was in gaol at the time, imprisoned for daring to suggest that American Negroes should have the same civil rights as other Americans. During his lifetime he had received death threat after death threat, he'd been maliciously accused of being a communist, his house had been bombed, and he was jailed over 20 times. Yet in this sermon he said "hate multiplies hate...in a descending spiral of violence" and is "just as injurious to the person who hates" as to his victim. But "love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend" for it has "creative" and "redemptive" power. - (Source: reported in David Garrow, Bearing the Cross. Martin Luther King Jr and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference)

2. Alexander III was Tsar of Russia from 1881-1894. His rule was marked by repression, and in particular by persecution of Jews. His wife, Maria Fedorovna, provided a stark contrast, being known for her generosity to those in need. On one occasion her husband had signed an order consigning a prisoner to life in exile. It read simply "Pardon impossible, to be sent to Siberia." Maria changed that prisoner's life by moving the comma in her husband's order. She altered it to "Pardon, impossible to be sent to Siberia." In Christ God has changed the comma that stood against us. From "Pardon impossible, send to Siberia" comes the good news of salvation: "Pardon, impossible to send to Siberia." (Sources: biography.com and Today in the Word, July 14, 1993.)

" Together as a faith filled community building for the future"

This Parish Development project is our biggest undertaking in over 35 years and at long last it's well under way.

STATUS REPORT

1. PHYSICAL CONSTRUCTION

- (a) Easement has been bored and piped to Victoria Road
- (b) Foundation slab and stormwater retention tank completed
- (c) Sewage bad storm water pipe work installed

2. FINANCIAL

- (a) Buy a brick campaign so far reached \$ 2,600
- (b) Income from second collection is static and needs a boost and insufficient for loan repayments when draw down of loan begins
- (c) Payments are made to the builder from the end of this month and it will be made to him almost every month end. This month covering: Sewage and storm water



Photo of foundation slab being laid last Monday

NEXT STEPS BUILDING

- 1. Balance of concrete laying.
- 2. Bricks to be delivered and first floor walls and columns to be built
- 3. First Floor concrete slab to be formed up and poured
- 4. Estimate completion date mid September

FINANCIAL

- Please consider increased support to parish income by:
- (a) possible increase to your current giving and regularity via direct debit / credit card.
 - (b) Supporting the "Buy a Brick" Campaign (form at the church entrance)

Let us pray for the...

Wellbeing & Health

Kaz Seremet
Lawrence
Joan Nayler
Sandra Ylagan
Adrian Seah

Recently Deceased

Doughlas Matthews
Danilo De Los Reyes
Madhalaimary
Christy Angelo Retnasingham

Anniversaries

Felix
Ruby Moses

PARISH ROSTERS

1/2 March 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>
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Jenny Hendry	Anne-Marie Hewkins Leah Garcia	Oscar G	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Kathleen Burrows	Thess Davidson & Family	Therese Ball Lesley Long
Sun 8.00am	Anthony Wong	Ron Della Vedova Anton Fernando	Maya R Cristian A	Helen Wong Lina Flores	Tuti Sugita		
Sun 10.00am	Vartguess Markarian	Lorna Argal Linda Tsang	Ava E Isabella C Tashnie W Tashen W	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues	Lawn and Garden	Romeo Urqueza	Children's Liturgy Sunday 2/3/2025 at 10am

8/9 March 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>
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	George Davidson	Romeo Urqueza Yolanda Urqueza	Harriet S	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Kathleen Burrows	Anton Fernando Anne Fernando	Barbara Rosario Lynette Rodrigues
Sun 8.00am	Anne Marie Lyons	Jodie MacGregor Rozz Morris	Daniela M Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tyrone Wiratunga		
Sun 10.00am	Anne Fernando	Khush Jilla Julia Tapiador	Angelina B Avril L	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Return of the Blessed Palms

Palms blessed on Palm Sunday become a "sacramental". These palms are burned and the ashes are used for the Ash Wednesday service.

The palms blessed and collected last year should be returned to the Parish by Sunday 2nd March 2025 and placed in the basket located at the back of the church.



NEXT SVDP CONFERENCE MEETING

on Tuesday 25th February at 7:30pm
in the Parish Meeting Room
New members are welcome.



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 - Friday 23rd May

Completed enrolment form to parish office - Friday 7th March

*Parent Information Evening - Thursday 13th March

Commitment Mass - 22nd / 23rd March

First Reconciliation - Thursday 26th June

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

First Eucharist - 21st Sept. 12 noon

Confirmation enrolment forms are located at the back of the church.

(Enrolment forms for other Sacraments will be provided later in the year)



YOUTH 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

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