



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday, 23 March 2025

**“ALL THAT HAPPENS TO US, INCLUDING OUR HUMILIATIONS, OUR MISFORTUNES,
OUR EMBARRASMENTS, ALL IS GIVEN TO US AS RAW MATERIAL, AS CLAY,
SO THAT WE MAY SHAPE OUR ART.”**

– MARIA POPOVA

The present catastrophes, natural and man-made, around the world may be compared to the ones mentioned in the Gospel of this Sunday. The gospel tells us about the ruthless murder of some Galileans while they were offering their temple services.

The victims mentioned in the Gospel of today were probably political agitators and this was Pilate's way of getting rid of them. The other incident was a construction accident wherein 18 innocent people were crushed to death by a falling tower in Siloam. The reporters to Jesus of these incidents were of the opinion that they were subjected to such horrific events due to their sinfulness. To have this kind of reaction in the face of such horrendous tragedies, and so much human suffering, is not only insensitive but also outright cruel. Like the people in the gospel, perhaps we are tempted, or inclined to have similar attitudes towards the victims of various events.

Some time ago a woman said to her friend that she felt God was punishing her for past actions. She had undergone an abortion and also an extra-marital affair, as well as having stolen some money. Six months earlier her husband was tragically killed in a car accident and a few months previous to that her only son died after a short illness due to cancer. She was convinced that God was now taking revenge by punishing her for these past sins. Like this woman, many of us would have thought of God punishing us in the wake of suffering, setbacks in our lives.

But Jesus warns us, as He repeatedly does in His teachings, that it is not for us to judge people and ourselves of our sins and failures. No one but God really knows what is in the human heart. God continues to unfold himself through people and events. We need to listen with our heart to the messages unfolded in these events and rectify ourselves with the compassionate love of God. Jesus is challenging us not to throw the mud on the people without looking at ourselves inwardly. As the saying goes, “the one who lives in the glass house should not throw stones,” we must heed to the teaching of Jesus and try to reform our lives. He offers us many chances to change our attitudes and behaviour as evidenced in the parable of the fig tree. This parable brings out the patience of God with us and his generosity in showering us with opportunities.

There is a story of a man living in the hurricane-prone suburbs of Florida. He went to a department store downtown and bought a fine barometer. Delighted with his acquisition, he hurried home and proudly hung it in his living room wall. But what he saw made him very angry: The barometer reading indicated “Hurricane!”

Convinced that he had been sold a defective instrument, he walked back to the department store, handed the barometer to the salesclerk, and snorted, “Hey, what is this barometer you sold me, ha? I put it up in my house and what do you suppose it registered? ‘Hurricane!’” To which the salesclerk replied, “But what I sold you was brand-new?” “No, I don't like this instrument,” he said angrily, “I want a replacement.” “No problem,” the store owner said. “I'll replace it in a minute.” The man headed for home with his new barometer, but by the time he arrived there, his house had been blown away!

We are in the season of Lent and God affords us this time as a grace to be repentant. All of us have some dark areas that need changing: Maybe we are addicts to digital devices, smoking, drinking; maybe we waste too much time or neglect our work; perhaps we have a sharp tongue; we criticize too much but we don't see our own faults; maybe we carry on an illicit relationship that's disturbing our peace of mind.

Instead of covering up our faults, instead of justifying ourselves or blaming others, or something like the barometer in the above story, let us face the truth about ourselves and take the necessary steps to reform—before it's too late.

If then we see repentance as a call to look at life and others as God, as Jesus does, we will be amazed that God is totally on our side, especially in times of tragedy and suffering. He asks us to bear fruit by focusing ourselves on how best to help others to have a better life, a life unburdened from guilt and whatever materially, spiritually, or psychologically still keeps us enslaved. The God we believe in is a God of love and forgiveness. (Sources duly acknowledged)

God's blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

First reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel:
I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slavedrivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This,' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 11

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 does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **R**

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea.

They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

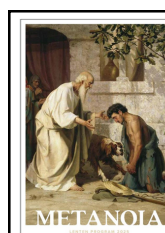
Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied, "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.



THE LENTEN PROGRAM

METANOIA

You are invited to attend the
Lenten Group Prayer & Reflection held every

Tuesday during Lent at 7pm

We will follow the book
Metanoia Lenten Program 2025

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Pope Francis' message for Lent 2025 is to "journey together in hope".

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and giving for Christians. It's a time to remember God's love and to develop a closer relationship with God.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
EVERY FRIDAY AT 7PM
FOLLOWED BY
HOLY MASS
 Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Enrolments for St Mary's Primary School are currently being accepted

Did you know? Our Parish Primary School, St Mary's was opened in 1889 – meaning this is the 137th year of our school. We owe a debt of gratitude to both the Sisters of Mercy and the Marist Brothers who ran and worked in the school for decades. For more information about St Mary's log onto their website <http://www.stmarysrydalmer.catholic.edu.au/>



Project Compassion March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
 Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

PALM CROSS making
 Friday 11th April at 6:30pm
 Saturday 12th April at 10am
 Seeking volunteers to assist with making of the crosses please 🙏
 For more details please contact:
 Allison on 0411 013 032
 or Anne Marie on 0421 915 744

'RYDALMEN' Building up fellowship among men of different age brackets

The Lenten Program for Rydalmen each Thursday will be as follows:

- Homecoming: 27 Mar**
- Redeemed: 3 Apr**
- Embrace: 10 Apr**
- Life: 17 Apr**

Where: Parish Meeting Room
Time: 7:15pm for 7:30pm to 9:00pm

What to Bring: Small plate of nibbles (Optional)

We are looking for 12 volunteers to participate in the Washing of the Feet

at the Holy Thursday celebration on 17th April 2025 at 7pm.
 If you are interested, please provide your name in the list provided at the back of the Church.

MY WEEKLY COMMITMENT
 Holy Name of Mary Rydalmer
 Amount \$

Weekly Commitment Envelopes are now available for collection at the back of the church.

NEXT SVDP CONFERENCE MEETING
 on Tuesday 25th March at 7:30pm
 in the Parish Meeting Room
New members are welcome.

Let us pray for the ...

Wellbeing & Health

Romenda McGregor Lawrence
 Pia Ylagan Joan Nayler
 Kaz Seremet Adrian Seah

Recently Deceased

John Hanna
 Gabriella Della Vedova-Conti
 Olivia Cinque
 Giuseppe Di Ruocco
 Edward Tan Kok Seng

Anniversaries

Gordon Boulous
 Sam Marsic
 Patrick Nolan
 Reginald Wong Yoon Onn
 Francis Power
 Jaime Pablacio
 Michael Saad
 John Loh Nyuk Seong
 Patricia Smyth
 Con Zikos

PARISH ROSTERS

29/30 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	Mark Salter	Leah Garcia Anne-Marie Hewkins	Oscar G	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Francis Mathew Patrick Edouard-Betsy	Monica Jung	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick
Sun 8.00am	Anne Fernando	Michael Clark Glenys Oxlee	Maya R Cristian A	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Evelyn Noviza		
Sun 10.00am	Delilah Rodrigues	George Lattouf Lynette Rodrigues	Ava E Isabella C Tashnie W Tashen W	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	Lawn and Garden	Michael Clark	
					Children's Liturgy	Sunday 30/3/2025 at 10am	

5/6 April 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	Eric Flores	Sr Maureen Eli Ogrizek	Harriet S	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	Sheila Tapiador	Susan Boulous & Family	Lily Hon O.Ham Maria Greenfield
Sun 8.00am	Lindsay Keur	Barbara Rosario Daniel Cakarun	Daniela M Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Marthe Nalletamby		
Sun 10.00am	Lynette Rodrigues	Marco Tapiador Sam Markarian	Angelina B Avril L	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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 to enjoy great company and good food.

Each one pays for their own meal and drinks.

When: Saturday 5 April 6:30pm

Sunday 18 May 11am for 11:30am

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 and/or to RSVP contact Allison on 0411 013 032.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Friday 23rd May 2025

As we approach the Sacrament of Confirmation our children in Year 5 onwards will commence preparation shortly.

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT DATES:

**Commitment Mass: Saturday 22nd March at 5:30pm
&
Sunday 23rd March at 10am**

Attendance at both sessions are compulsory for parents and children.

(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

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal This Weekend

Please give generously.

Donations are tax deductible.

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services. This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation.



Support our Chaplains to restore hope with merciful acts of charity and love. Thank you.

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
Catechists Coordinator	Diane O'Shea
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