



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Sunday, 8 February 2026

If we are faithful to the Gospel our life will illuminate the world as light does.

In the Gospel reading, Matthew gives three “missionary” images to explain the role of those who follow Jesus. The disciples of Jesus are to be the salt, light and a city built of a hill.

Salt is basic to human life. It preserves perishable food and gives food flavor and taste.

In ancient times, it was also used as payment, exactly as we use today’s salary. In fact, the word “salary” comes from the Latin *salarium*, which is salt.

Salt was also used to light fire. In the ancient middle east, the common fuel for the outdoor oven was not wood, which was scarce, but something more plentiful: camel or donkey dung. Dung patties were gathered in heaps to be used as fuel. At the base of the oven is a salt plate made of clay or mud. Salt was then placed on this plate and upon it the salted dung patty. Salt has catalytic properties that cause the dung to burn well.

When Jesus says that the disciples are the salt of the earth, “earth” may not primarily refer to the world of humanity, but to the mud plate of the outdoor earthen oven where salt is spread and the dried, salted dung patties are used as fuel. This is because the word mud, in Aramaic can mean both “earth” and mud “clay plate/oven.” The metaphor easily opens to other symbolisms. The disciples are the salt, that is, catalyst or an agent of change for the earth – the world of humanity.

Salt also symbolizes friendship. To “partake of salt” together is to establish a covenant of friendship, a sacred pact or an unbreakable covenant (2Cor 13:5). To break the “covenant of salt” is a great offense.

Like salt, the followers of Christ continually instill in the world the desire for societal justice and personal perfection and do not allow people to be satisfied with individual or societal mediocrity. It can also mean, that in fulfilling our mission we become counter cultural to the prevailing norms of our society that may be contrary to our faith, examples: the issue of same sex marriage, the sanctity of life, etc. The Church remains faithful to its belief based on the Gospel and does not allow itself to be diluted by or assimilated to any other culture, ideology or the prevailing societal norms. In other words, our role as disciples of Christ is to sanctify, purify and preserve the world in its relationship to God like salt.

In our situation, we can say that without the preservative, flavoring, and catalytic ability of the disciples (of any time), the “earth”—the world of men and women—will not be set “on fire.” Life will be tasteless. Thus, our God-given dignity as disciples is also our responsibility. If, as disciples, we lose our “saltiness,” we are practically useless because we become so adjusted to the values of the world that our lifestyle no longer challenges us. We ceased to be salt and only fit to be thrown out.

We are the light because as group of believers, we become highly visible due to the dedicated character of our lives as Christians in what we say and do. If we are faithful to the Gospel our life will illuminate the world as light does.

Like a city on a hill, the Church as a whole must be seen as a community which lives out visibly the relationships proclaimed in the beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12).

The images [Salt of the earth, light of the world and a city built on a hill] remind us that the mission of Christians is to be witnesses to the alternative spiritual and social order based on the Gospel – the Good News of Christ.

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Your light will shine like the dawn.
Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and do not turn from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 111:4-9

R: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **R**
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R**
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **R**

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any
show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you
what God had guaranteed.

During my stay with you, the only knowledge
I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about
him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any
power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear
and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons
that I gave, there were none of the arguments that
belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the
power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith
should not depend on human philosophy but on the
power of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the
earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it
salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be
thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-
top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it
under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it
shines for everyone in the house. In the same way
your light must shine in the sight of men, so that,
seeing your good works, they may give the praise to
your Father in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon:

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be consoled.

Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall have their fill.

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 15th February 2026 and placed in the basket located at the back of the church.



Sacrament of Confirmation
- 15th May 2026

Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 18th August 2026

Sacrament of Holy Eucharist
- 20th September 2026

For more details, please contact our Parish Sacramental Coordinator Lynnette Rodrigues via email: lynnr291955@gmail.com



NEXT SVDP CONFERENCE MEETING

on Tuesday 10/02/2026
at 7:30pm
in the Parish Meeting Room
New members are welcome.



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

When should I complete my Safeguarding Training?

All clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to complete Safeguarding Training, & have current certifications.

If new to ministry/Safeguarding Training: Complete Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle 1).

If completed Cycle 1 Modules two years ago: Complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2).

If you renewed your Cycle 2 Modules 4 and 5 two years ago: Complete Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3).

For further enquiries, please contact us at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA A SAFE CHURCH FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK.

Let us pray for the...

Wellbeing & Health

Recently Deceased

Anniversaries

George Asic	Patrick Coughlan	Rosemary Romeo
Cristina Assuncao	Al Alam Family	Kaz Seremet
Mario Borsellino	Younis Family	Hayden Thomson
Maree Buttenshaw	Lorna Lagarto	Alexander Velasquez
Kath Clinton	Rey Legaspi	Alan Tracy Villarosa
Margaret Constable	Romenda McGregor	Pia Ylagan



PARISH ROSTERS

14/15 Feb 2026

	<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>	Thomas Russo	Romeo Urqueza Yolanda Urqueza	Cristian A Clareese M	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	Kathleen Burrows	Susan Boulous & Family	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Naom Younis	Ron Della Vedova Anton Fernando	Jensen M Judah M	Lina Flores Eric Flores	Barbara Rosario Geoff Rosario		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Eddie Appleby	Jessica Tapiador Cynthia Oscar	Theo M Alessandro C Isabella N Tashnie & Tashen W	Sheila Tapiador Evelyn Artiaga	<u>Children's Liturgy</u>	Sunday 15/2/2026 at 10am	

21/22 Feb 2026

	<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>	George Davidson	Leah Garcia Anne-Marie Hewkins	Harriet S Zachary C Jacob K	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Francis Mathew	Anton Massillamany	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick Maria Dowling Rozz Morris
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Michael Majoor	Jodie MacGregor Glenys Oxlee	Maya R Tara c	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues	Vartguess Markarian	
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Anne Fernando	Lynette Rodrigues Nada Coorey	Savannah S-F Madison A Sage G	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues	<u>Lawn and Garden</u>	Robert Spinetti	

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

PARISH MINISTRY SIGN-UP



**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**

Ministries needing volunteers

Altar Linen Washing

Altar Servers (Junior)

Altar Servers (Senior)

Altar Society

Catechists in Public Schools

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

ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 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
10am to 5pm

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
Rydalmere Coordinator: Mark Bannister
Social Celebrations Coordinator: Nancy Grugan
Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Luke Homann

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Mary's Primary School
1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmer 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