



# Weekly Bulletin

**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish**

**4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere**

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A**

**Sunday, 22 February 2026**

**“EVERY MOMENT OF RESISTANCE TO TEMPTATION IS A VICTORY”**

**— Frederick William Faber**

The gospel of this Sunday narrates the temptations of Jesus before he commenced his public mission. These temptations emphasize that these are not just historical events, but symbolic of the daily pressures we face to live independently of God.

### **1. The Temptation of Materialism (Bread)**

After 40 days of fasting, Jesus is tempted to use his divine power to satisfy his immediate hunger. This represents the drive for instant gratification and security through "stuff". We are often tempted to take moral shortcuts, compromising values or dignity, to meet physical or emotional needs like wealth, food, or status. It challenges us to trust God's provision rather than relying solely on our own "self-preservation" through accumulation.

*The "Flying Scotsman" famously faced the temptation to satisfy a legitimate hunger—the hunger for Olympic glory—by compromising his spiritual convictions. In the 1924 Olympics, Liddell was the favourite for the 100-metre sprint. However, the heats were held on a Sunday. Despite immense public pressure and the "temptation" to just "do it this once" for his country, he refused to run on the Sabbath. Like Jesus' refusal to turn stones into bread, Liddell demonstrated that man does not live by medals (or bread) alone, but by being faithful to what God has spoken.*

### **2. The Temptation of Sensationalism (The Temple Pinnacle)**

The devil quotes Scripture (Psalm 91) to goad Jesus into a public, miraculous display of God's protection. This is often seen as the temptation of spiritual pride or seeking validation through spectacle. In a modern context, it might look like using religion for "weekend diversions" or "magic" rather than transformation. It warns against "testing" God by being reckless and then demanding a miracle to fix the consequences.

*Before his conversion, Ignatius was obsessed with his own "spectacle"—his reputation as a brave soldier and nobleman. While recovering from a cannonball wound, he was tempted to continue pursuing worldly "renown" and "vanity". He eventually realized this was a form of "testing God" by seeking his own glory rather than God's. He surrendered his sword at the altar of Montserrat, choosing a life of humble service instead of the "high point" of social status. He moved from demanding God bless his personal ambitions to asking God to use him for "His greater glory".*

### **3. The Temptation of Power (The High Mountain)**

Jesus is offered all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for his allegiance. This symbolizes the lure of political control and worldly success at the expense of spiritual values. Modern reflections point to how we might "sell out" to partisan politics or personality cults to protect our own rights and power. It is a call to choose a life of service over the "satanic lure" of dominion. Jesus didn't argue with logic; he responded with the Word of God. Modern believers are encouraged to "saturate" their minds with Scripture to recognize and counter the subtle "if" questions that introduce doubt into their lives.

*A modern "Riches to Rags" story mirrors the third temptation—the allure of "all the kingdoms of the world" in exchange for one's soul. Fuhlendorf was a high-level millionaire executive who achieved everything the world calls success: power, wealth, and influence. However, he found it "tainted by emptiness". He eventually walked away from the "kingdom" of corporate dominance to find a relationship with God, discovering that true authority is not found in what you own, but in who you serve. He rejected the "shortcut" to happiness through accumulation, choosing instead the "narrow path" of faith.*

Jesus was tempted when he was at his most physically vulnerable—alone and hungry. This serves as a reminder that the "wilderness" is where we learn absolute dependence on God's grace.

Would you like to explore specific Lenten practices that address these three modern temptations?

(Source online).

**God's blessings**

**Fr. Vince**

# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

## First reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

**R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**

## Second reading: Romans 5:12-19

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

*Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

*He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'*

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:  
*You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

*You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'*

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

## Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth  
of God.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

**UNITE  
AGAINST  
POVERTY**  
this Lent

**THIS WEEKEND**

**21-22 FEBRUARY 2026**

**PLEASE SUPPORT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.**

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

Project Compassion 2026 will share four stories from around the world over the coming weeks during Lent. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

**You can support Project Compassion 2026**

**through the donation boxes or envelopes available in the Parish.**

Or you can also make a donation online at:  
projectcompassion.org.au or by calling: 1800 024 413

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



**2026  
Sacramental  
Programme**

**Sacrament of  
Confirmation**  
- 15th May 2026

**Sacrament of  
Reconciliation**  
- 18th August 2026

**Sacrament of  
Holy Eucharist**  
- 20th September 2026

**Confirmation Enrolment Forms for 2026 are available  
at the back of the church for anyone who may have not got one already.**

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

## EASTER CHOIR REHEARSALS

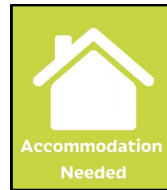
We welcome you all to come along  
and join us at rehearsals,  
every Monday evening during Lent at  
7.30pm in the Parish.

For any enquiries about joining/singing,  
please contact Catherine on 0417 060 021



**NEXT SVDP  
CONFERENCE  
MEETING**

on **Tuesday 24/02/2026**  
at **7:30pm** in the  
Parish Meeting Room  
**New members  
are welcome.**



**Accommodation  
Needed**

Mature-age parishioner is seeking studio  
or granny flat accommodation.  
If you are able to assist, please contact  
Stephen on 0416 151 327.  
Thank you for your support and kindness.

## "RYDALMEN"

*We will be doing  
the Lenten program every Thursday  
over the coming weeks.*

*The invitation is open to both  
Men and Women  
during the Lenten Program*

**Where:** Parish Meeting Room

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

**What to Bring:** Small plate  
of nibbles (Optional)

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 26th Feb.

## Let us pray for the...

### Wellbeing & Health

George Asic  
Cristina Assuncao  
Mario Borsellino  
Maree Buttenshaw  
Kath Clinton  
Margaret Constable  
Patrick Coughlan  
Al Alam Family

Younis Family  
Charmaine Jakober  
Martin Jakober  
Lorna Lagarto  
Rey Legaspi  
Romenda McGregor  
Rosemary Romeo  
Kaz Seremet

Hayden Thomson  
Alexander Velasquez  
Alan Tracy Villarosa  
Pia Ylagan

### Recently Deceased

David Twomey  
Anselm Jehendran

*Our deepest condolences  
and prayers go out to the  
family of our dearly beloved,  
long-term parishioner  
and Acolyte*

**Romy Pena**

### Anniversaries

Paula Gagaro  
Ruby Moses  
Michael Saad

## PARISH ROSTERS

### 28/1 Mar 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>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Ben Garcia	Lynette Rodrigues Eli Ogrizek	Ruby P	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Francis Mathew	Pierre Salomon	Lily Hon O. Ham Maria Greenfield
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Anthony Wong	Angela Finnane Will Finnane	Maya R	Lina Flores Eric Flores	Bill O'Shea Sheila Tapiador		
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Vartguess Markarian	Sam Markarian Marco Tapiador	Ava E Isabella N Tashnie W Tashen W	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> Nic Padden Delilah Rodrigues	Sunday 1/3/2026 at 10am	

### 7/8 Mar 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>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Thomas Russo	Eli Ogrizek Michelle Acharya	Cristian A Jacob K	Susan Boulos Kathy Saad	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres	Thomas Russo	Therese Ball Lesley Long
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Christopher Younis	Jodie MacGregor Rozz Morris	Bridget R Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tyrone Wiratunga Frank Camilleri	Sophie Russo	
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Delilah Rodrigues	George Lattouf Julia Tapiador	Avril L Savannah S-F Amelia I	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade	<b>Lawn and Garden</b>	Romeo Urqueza	

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

## MARIAN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE

OCTOBER 2026



Join us on a spiritually enriching Marian Pilgrimage with Fr. Vincent, where pilgrims have encountered grace, renewal, and deeper faith.

We invite you to join in our INFO Session on Saturday, 7 March @ 10.30am in the Parish Meeting Room.

For questions or to express early interest, please contact Susan Clark from "itravel with Susan Clark" on 0405 429 988 or via Email: [susan@itravel-au.com](mailto:susan@itravel-au.com)

*We look forward to journeying together in faith!*

\* Tentative Travel Date: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026

(Travel dates are yet to be confirmed and will be discussed at the INFO Session)

## Catechists

Thank you, Lauren McGinty, for accepting to take on the 3-4 Class at Dundas Public School

**We are still in need of a Catechists for the Years 1-2 Class at Dundas Public School on Wednesdays at 2.00pm.**

If you would like to become a Catechist, please let us know so that we can advise you on the training and preparation that is necessary.

Please contact: Diane O'Shea

via email: [dcoshea@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dcoshea@bigpond.net.au)

## **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: Sunday 8 March - 11:30am**

**Sunday 12 April - 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.

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

## 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