



# Weekly Bulletin

**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish**

**4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere**

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A**

**Sunday, 1 March 2026**

**“Life will always give you enough highs  
to appreciate the lows and enough lows to never take for granted the highs.”**

Highs and Lows, we all have them. How do we handle them? Some are inclined to get carried away with our “highs” and some throw in the towel that everything and everyone, including God is against them. Today's readings touch on such situations and provide examples for dealing with them.

Abraham and Sarah had a son in their old age and they were given the promise that he would be the father of a great nation. Now, they were shattered by God's request to sacrifice the lad they had so longed for. In its ancient origin, the story of the father sacrificing the son was probably aimed at the practice of human sacrifice. In the Old Testament tradition, the story has been adjusted to present an example of Faith; still later, Jewish tradition used it to illustrate not only Abraham's faith, but also the faith of Isaac. In the New Testament we see this image being extended to Christian teaching - God willingly sacrificing Christ, and Christ willing to be sacrificed. From this application we learn the value that we, as individuals, have in the sight of God. We learn, too, that the trials we experience should be regarded as stepping stones to character building. "With God on our side, who can be against us?"

Both Jesus and the Apostles with Him have a powerful experience on Mt. Tabor. There is the "high" contained in the commendation 'this is my beloved Son; hear him'; but, Jesus now understands that he must go up to Jerusalem to die there. This is the downside of the powerful transfiguration experience.

Last week, we reflected on the wilderness, a place of loneliness and at the same time a place of encountering God and being served by the angels. This week, we climb the mountains - Mountains are often referred to in the Scriptures as scenes for close encounters between God and His people. Noah - Mt. Ararat; Abraham, Mt. Moriah; Moses, Mount Sinai. And today we read of the Transfiguration experience on Mt. Tabor. This experience was a great "high" for Christ and the Apostles with Him. The commendation of the Father, the presence of the Prophets Moses and Elijah. But, balancing this "high" came the downside of the encounter. From here he must go up to Jerusalem to complete the mission of salvation.

Most of us have moments when we see exactly where our lives are going and what we need to do in order to be true to ourselves. And part of that recognition is knowing that the "high" points can only be reached by passing through the valleys. Very few, if any, experience completely plain sailing in life. There are usually troughs to be negotiated. In other words, life is a series of joys alternating with moments of pain and anguish. We have our moments of satisfaction when we say "God is in his heavens; and all is well with the world". But those interludes pass, and the monotony, the heartaches, the routines and the anxieties of life return. The highs and lows of life can feel like a roller coaster.

You've probably experienced a day that starts out smooth, but quickly hurtles to the bottom when a family member is cranky or stubborn or decides they don't care about your feelings at the moment. I know it happens in our house. One bad mood can put a damper on the whole group. Those are the days when life reminds me that the good times don't last. But neither do the bad.

Whether there is more joy than heartache in relationships depend on how people learn to control their selfish, defensive, vindictive and impatient tendencies. The truth is, we are all imperfect human beings and there will be no perfect life as to 100%, every one could make mistakes that will embarrass the hell out of us. That's life. It is no different in our relationship with God. Here, too, "highs" and "lows" are present; and for the same reason, namely, our selfishness. It is not easy to say "not my will, but yours be done". No one goes through life without these "highs" and "lows". The big question is - do we have sufficient Faith in Christ's leadership to know that every "low" can be a stepping stone to a greater "high". The Tabor experience brought home to Christ and the Apostles the recognition that the successes so far achieved were only part of the eternal plan of redemption. Yet to come was the "high" of the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to be followed by the disgrace and shame of Calvary. But, when all seemed lost, came the "high" of the Resurrection. And this is the pattern of Christian life. Already we are into the 2nd week of Lent. Let us make a STOP - STOP stands for:

**S** = Stop for a moment...

**T** = Take a full deep breath...

**O** = Observe... What am I aware of right now? The highs and lows of my life ...how am I dealing with them? ( What is alive in me? Can I be with it whatever is coming up right now?)

**P** = Proceed... realistically, that the 'lows' are opportunities to transform the physical, the mundane to our spiritual and integral advantage. What do I choose to do now that I have stepped back and been an observer of myself?)

It is worth repeating that the good times don't last but neither do the bad.

**God's blessings**

**Fr. Vince**

# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

## First reading: Genesis 12:1-4

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:  
I will curse those who slight you.  
All the tribes of the earth  
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

**R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. **R**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **R**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. **R**

## Second reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace.

This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

*His face shone like the sun*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

## Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

*Together building a faith filled community*

Dear Parishioners,

Copies of the financial insert in last weekend's bulletin, for those of you who did not get one, are now available and are located on the tables at the entrance of the parish.

**As our second collection is struggling, and will on various months not meet our loan repayments to ensure a steady and predictable income, I urge all parishioners to please consider becoming a committed giver through Direct Debit or Credit Card giving.**

The parish will soon celebrate the opening of our new Administration/presbytery building which is the biggest building development in the parish in the last 50 years.

However our loan repayments will commence at the end of February.

**Forms for Direct Debit and Credit Card are available on the tables as you enter the parish.**

Thanking you in anticipation, and together we look forward to a joyful and memorable celebration of the blessing and official opening of the new building after Easter.

Regards,

Ron Della Vedova (Chairman of Finance Committee)



The Eucharistic Adoration scheduled for this Sunday 1/03/2026 has been cancelled due to Baptisms.

## Holy Hour



**THIS WEEKEND**  
28 FEB. - 1 MAR. 2026

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

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



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](http://projectcompassion.org.au) or by calling: 1800 024 413

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



**Congratulations**  
**Cooper, Isaac & Zoie**

who receive the Sacrament of Baptism  
this Sunday 1/3/2026

We welcome them to our Parish.

**"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 5th Mar.



**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



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.

## Let us pray for the...

### Wellbeing & Health

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

### Recently Deceased

Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to the family of Mr Richard Blissenden (Principal, St Mary's School) on the passing of his dearly beloved father

**William (Bill) Blissenden**

May Bill rest in Peace

### Anniversaries

Allan Parazo  
Romy Pena  
Patrick West  
Colin Francis Wright

## PARISH ROSTERS

### 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	

### 14/15 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>	Eric Flores	Romeo Urqueza Yolanda Urqueza	Cristian A Claireese M	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres	Thess Davidson & Family	Barbara Rosario Lynette Rodrigues
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Anne Fernando	Angela Finnane Will Finnane	Jensen M Judah M	Eric Flores Lina Flores	Marthe Nalletamby Donai Makoni		
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Glenys Oxlee	Astrid Kossim Joseph Andrews	Theo M Alessandro C Isabella N Tashnie & Tashen W	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> Tamara Markarian	Sunday 15/3/2026 at 10am John 9:1-41	

# 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)



### 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](mailto:lynnr291955@gmail.com)

## 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/Thu/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