



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Sunday, 22 March 2026

**“From dry bones a people are born, from fear a movement arises,
from crisis a new creation emerges.”**

On this fifth Sunday of Lent, the Word of God presents us with two powerful images of life snatched from death: the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel and the tomb of Lazarus in Bethany. Both speak of situations that seem hopeless, where life has withdrawn and only inert matter remains. Yet in both cases, God does not allow death to have the last word.

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord addresses a people in exile who feel like a nation already buried: “I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people” (Ezekiel 37:12). Israel is not only wounded or discouraged; it is as if dead. Exile, oppression and humiliation have drained the people of their breath. But God promises more than comfort: he promises resurrection. “I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live” (Ezekiel 37:14). Life returns when God breathes his Spirit into what seemed lost forever.

This prophecy does not concern only ancient Israel. It applies to all situations where systems of exploitation, violence or neglect reduce people to “dry bones,” deprived of dignity, voice and hope. Entire communities today live as if locked in a tomb: crushed by ecological destruction, forced displacement, debt or economic structures that prioritize profit at the expense of people. Their lands are ravaged, their rivers polluted, their ways of life stifled. From the outside, one might think that nothing new can sprout there.

In this reality, the Gospel of the resurrection of Lazarus resonates with the same force. Jesus does not remain distant from death. He goes to Bethany, stands before a sealed tomb, and weeps. His tears are not a sign of weakness, but of divine compassion. Before calling Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus accepts the pain of Martha, Mary and the whole community. He enters into their mourning. Then he cries out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:43). The one who was bound by funeral bandages comes out of the tomb. But the story does not end there. Jesus turns to those around him and says, “Unbind him, and let him go” (John 11:44). The miracle involves the community. They must help remove the signs of death and return Lazarus to life among his own. This is where the Word connects with our mission. We are called to untie others. Faith in the God of life cannot remain abstract or disembodied. It draws us to those whose lives have been emptied by unjust systems, communities wounded by extractive industries, environmental degradation, crushing poverty and exclusion. (Source: Gustave Ineza OP, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Toronto)

Here are a couple of true stories of transitioning from hopelessness to hope by the grace of God often involve individuals hitting absolute rock bottom—emotionally, physically, or spiritually—before experiencing a profound, divine intervention that shifts their perspective from despair to purpose.

· *Following a devastating accident in Hawaii that left him unable to move his limbs, Judah broke his neck in three places and his back in five. Overwhelmed by pain, isolation, and the terrifying reality of his injuries, he reached a point of wanting to end his life. In his darkest moment, he turned to God, finding solace in prayer. Through a long and arduous rehabilitation, Judah experienced a “miracle” healing, defying medical odds to stand again. He now attributes his recovery to God’s presence, viewing his ordeal as a platform for sharing hope and his future with purpose.*

· *A woman who was severely abused as a child and struggling with intense depression and suicidal thoughts felt she was “too far gone”. She described her life as “meaningless” and was trapped in a cycle of rage, numbness, and darkness. At age 10, she was introduced to the message of Jesus’ love, which began to turn her sorrow into joy. Through the grace of God, she was able to forgive her abuser and, despite a lingering, difficult childhood, she was rescued from that environment, eventually leading a Bible study, and finding true hope.*

Lent leads us to the cross, where death seems to triumph. Let us experience the life-transforming love of Jesus in our lives and uplift the hopeless people (dry bones) with the love and grace of Jesus Christ!

God’s blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves;
I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and
lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that
I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you
from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in
you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your
own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said
and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 129

**R: With the Lord there is mercy,
and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **R**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **R**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **R**

Second reading: Romans 8:8-11

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is
living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal
bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can
never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are
not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit
of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you
possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to
him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin,
but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself
because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him
who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he
who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own
mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love
is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will
end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of
God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he
heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two
more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for
four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come
she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house.
Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would
not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of
God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will
rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the
resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son
of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from
the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much
he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened
the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this
man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a
cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the
stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell;
this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if
you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away
the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here!
Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound
with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to
them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had
come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon:

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

I am glad to welcome Deacon Roque Dias to our parish

Welcome

to assist me and the parish in possible ways.

Please make him welcome!

My name is Deacon Roque Dias a permanent deacon of the Catholic Church serving in the Diocese of Parramatta in NSW Australia.

I was ordained to the permanent diaconate on 22 February 2019

at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta by Bishop Vincent

Long Van Nguyen. I have been actively involved in pastoral care

ministry, including hospital Chaplaincy for 7 years and outreach to the sick and elderly. As a deacon, I have assisted at Mass by proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, and serving the parish community. I have served

as an assistant deacon in the Parish of Baulkham Hills, for the last seven years ministering to the communities of St Michael's Catholic Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

I am married to Gemma and I have a son, Gerard.

My ministry emphasises prayer, service, and accompanying people through the challenges of life as a visible sign of Christ's call to serve.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PALM CROSS MAKING

Friday, 27 March 2026 at 5:30pm in the church meeting room

No experience needed - just willing hands and cheerful hearts!

We also welcome donations of fresh palm branches to ensure we have enough materials for our Palm Sunday celebration.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



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

News from St Mary's Primary School

23 March 2026

Enrolments for children starting school in 2027 are currently being

accepted through the St Mary's school office.

St Mary's will also host Tours of the School on 23/3/26 at 4.30pm-6pm

for families looking to enrol in 2026 or 2027.

Please call (02) 8844 - 5700 for more information. Enrolment forms are available online via the school's website

<http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au/>

REQUEST FOR PALMS

As we prepare to journey with Jesus towards Easter, we invite you to sponsor the palms for our Palm Sunday services. Your donation helps us provide these blessed branches as a symbol of victory and peace.

'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' (Matthew 21:9)"

Let the palms be tender to make the cross easy.

Please bring the palms to the Parish by 26th March 2026.

We may need volunteers to make the crosses, and we will notify the date and the time when we get closer.

Fr Vince

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

at the Holy Thursday celebration on 2nd April 2026 at 7pm.

If you are interested, please write your name on the register located at the entrance of the church.



"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 Mar.

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

Anne Burton

Anniversaries

Robert Belford
Jocelyne Cassigny
Yves Flore
Ignace Munso
Urlande Munso

PARISH ROSTERS

28/29 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>
<u>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</u>	Ben Garcia	Eli Ogrizek Sr Maureen	Ruby P	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	David Boulous Sue Boulous	Jing Tapiador	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon Doreen Tencaramedon
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Naom Younis	Michael Clark Ron Della Vedova	Maya R	Eric Flores Lina Flores	Lawrence Tsang Sheila Delos Reyes		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Delilah Rodrigues	Lynette Rodrigues Sam Markarian	Ava E Isabella N Tashnie W Tashen W	Sheila Tapiador Evelyn Artiaga	<u>Children's Liturgy</u> Tamara Markarian	Sunday 15/3/2026 at 10am John 9:1-41	

4/5 Apr 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>	Lynette Rodrigues	Nada Coorey Michael Clark Barbara Rosario George Lattouf	Cristian A Jacob K	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Katherine Burrows	Sue Galletto	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Gail Dick Maria Dowling Rozz Morris
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Anthony Wong	Anton Fernando Barbara Rosario	Bridget R Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Reza Ferdinanto Audrey Ferdinanto		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Glenys Oxlee	Nada Coorey Lorna Argal	Avril L Savannah S-F Amelia I	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues	<u>Lawn and Garden</u>	Romeo Urqueza	

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

21/22 MAR 2026

this Lent

PLEASE SUPPORT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



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.

**Divine Mercy Sunday
on 12th April 2026 at 1:45pm**



*Everyone is welcome!
May we come together to celebrate this great feast as a community and be richly blessed by Jesus!
Your presence is a precious gift to each other,
Fr. Vince.*

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 1:45pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
will be offered at the same time at 1:45pm

Eucharist Procession at 2:30pm

Divine Mercy Solemn Mass at 3pm

FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP
- Please bring a plate

Volunteers Needed: Altar servers, readers, canopy bearers, PowerPoint operator, people to assist in crowd control, children to hold the picture of our Blessed Virgin Mary during procession etc.

To volunteer please provide your name and contact details on the list at the back of the Church.

The Office of Tenebrae

As mentioned in the Ways to Participate Information Sheet (bulletin insert 3 weeks ago), this reflective Holy Week liturgy of Scripture, psalm chanting, and sacred music will be held on

Monday, 30 March 2026

**at St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place Parramatta,
from 7:30pm - 8:30pm.**

It will also be livestreamed via St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta's YouTube channel.

Tenebrae is a solemn service where 15 candles (representing the twelve Apostles, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and one for Christ) are gradually extinguished. The final Christ candle is hidden to signify His burial, followed by the strepitus (a sudden loud noise), which is then made to evoke the earthquake and confusion that followed the Crucifixion. The candle is returned at the end, pointing toward the hope of the Resurrection.

While this service is not a pilgrimage organised by our parish, it is offered as a meaningful Lenten pilgrimage opportunity.



MY WEEKLY COMMITMENT
Holy Name of Mary Rydalmere



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



**NEXT SVDP
CONFERENCE
MEETING**

on **Tuesday 24th March**
at **7:30pm**
in the Parish Meeting Room
New members are welcome.

Dear Parishioners,

Join Us for Our Monthly Parish Lunch!

When: Sunday 3 May - 11:30am

Sunday 7 June - 11:30am

Sunday 5 July - 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.
Each one pays for their own meal and drinks.
For more details and/or to RSVP contact **Allison** on **0411 013 032**.
Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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
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