



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Sunday, 15 March 2026

**“God doesn’t always remove the darkness immediately,
but He gives us eyes to see the light within it.”**

- Ramakrishna

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Hope, your Lenten observances are going well. During this season of Lent, we realize in depth that we are all in need of healing and His forgiveness and so we come together as a community of sinners seeking mercy **on Wednesday evening, 18th March 2026, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**. A few priests from other parishes will be here to assist us! Come and see how sweet and forgiving our Lord Jesus is!

The Easter Vigil service will begin at 6.30pm and not 5.30pm on 4th April Saturday.

Kindly inform your families and friends about this change of time.

On this fourth Sunday in Lent, we celebrate that God gives sight in darkness. Each reading reveals God’s power to look beyond appearances, to see what others cannot, and to lead us from blindness into sight, both physical and spiritual. In Psalm 23, David proclaims the Lord as his shepherd, guiding him through shadowed valleys and into places of peace. Even in darkness, God’s presence brings light, comfort, and renewal. This psalm reminds us that we do not walk alone. The passage in 1 Samuel 16 recounts the story of God sending Samuel to anoint a new king from Jesse’s sons. Samuel expects greatness in outward appearance, but God teaches a deep truth: “The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” David, the youngest and least expected, is chosen: divine sight penetrates beyond what human eyes can see. In Ephesians 5, Paul urges believers to “live as children of light,” leaving behind the works of darkness. “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” God’s light exposes what is hidden and transforms it into goodness and truth. Finally, in John 9 Jesus reveals himself as “the light of the world” as he heals a man born blind. Physical sight becomes a symbol of spiritual awakening. While others remain trapped in judgment and disbelief, the healed man grows in faith, recognizing Jesus as Lord. Together, these scriptures proclaim a God who sees, restores, and gives us his light, opening our eyes to grace, truth, and new life.

In the year 2000, a man named Mike May experienced something most of us will never have to imagine. When he was three years old, a chemical explosion took away his sight. For more than forty years, he lived in total darkness. Then doctors offered him a way to gain some of his sight back. When the bandages finally came off, light flooded his world. But seeing was not easy.

Mike could detect colour and shape, but his brain could not make sense of what his eyes were sending. Faces looked flat. Objects appeared disconnected. Stairs felt dangerous. At one point, he said something surprising: “Seeing is more confusing than being blind.”

For years, his body had adapted to darkness. Vision was a gift — but it was also disorienting. He had to learn how to live in a world he wasn’t used to. Mike May’s story helps us step into John 9, where Jesus encounters a man who had never seen light at all. Not because of an accident. Not because of disease. But because he was born blind. Both men faced darkness. And in both stories, sight comes not because they figured something out, but because light comes to them. Grace comes before understanding, and sight — real sight — is given, not earned. John 9 is not just a healing story. It is a story about how Jesus enters human darkness and gives the sight we cannot give ourselves.

At the centre of this story is the good news of one clear truth: God gives sight in darkness. Not after we fix ourselves; not once we understand everything; not when we finally get it right. God gives sight in darkness.

(Thanks to RCL Resources)

God’s blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22

**R: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R**

Second reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.

Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 9:1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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.



Congratulations

Lukas, Mathilde & Sophia

who receive the Sacrament of Baptism
this Sunday 15/3/2026

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 19th Mar.

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.**

News from St Mary's Primary School 15/16 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

16/3/26 at 9.45am-10.45am and 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.stmarysrydalmore.catholic.edu.au/>

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

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

Anniversaries

Patrick Nolan
Ciss Power

PARISH ROSTERS

21/22 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>
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	George Davidson	Sue Farrugia Len Farrugia	Harriet S Zachary C Jacob K	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	David Boulous Sue Boulous	Anton Fernando	Linda Tsang Grace Coco Sheila Tapiador
Sun 8.00am	Michael Majoor	Glenox Oxlee Helen Wong	Maya R Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tuti Sugita	Anne Fernando	
Sun 10.00am	Eddie Appleby	Linda Tsang Jessica Tapiador	Savannah S-F Madison A Sage G	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	Lawn and Garden	Michael Clark	

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

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

14/15 MAR 2026

PLEASE SUPPORT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji.

With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



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

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.

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 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.

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.

MY WEEKLY COMMITMENT
Holy Name of Mary Rydalmere



Amount \$

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

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
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