



# Weekly Bulletin

**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish**

**4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere**

Office: 2 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere 2116

Email: [admin@holymary.org.au](mailto:admin@holymary.org.au) Phone: **(02) 9684 1541**

Website: [www.holymary.org.au](http://www.holymary.org.au)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A**

**Sunday, 8 March 2026**

**“A boat may stay in water, but water should not stay in the boat. A spiritual aspirant may live in the world, but the world should not live within him.”**

**- Ramakrishna**

Once upon a time, on a hot sunny afternoon, a crow (a species of bird) was seen flying around in search of water to quench her thirst. For a very long time, she was unable to find water, and she became weak and frustrated, but she did not give up. Suddenly, she saw a jug of water within a neighbourhood. She was excited! She flew straight down to see if there was water inside. She saw some water inside the jug!

The next thing was to get some water from the jug, but there was a problem! The neck of the jug was so narrow, and the water level was also very low, making it impossible for the crow's peak to get to the water. In her frustration, she tried to push the jug down in view of spilling out water, but the jug was too heavy for her to push. The crow did not give up as she tried another thing. This time she started picking pebbles and throwing them into the jug. As she did so the water level in the jug began to rise until it came up to the level, she could get some water. Her thirst for water brought about this zealous creativity.

Water is obviously very important to life, whether for plants, animals, or human beings. Human anatomy tells us that the human body is made up of about 73% of water. Geologists are also of the opinion that the earth is made up of more than 70% of water. Water is one commodity we cannot dispense with. I have not yet seen anyone who does not drink water. The simple truth is that we need water for various things beginning with our body, metabolism, to cleaning and washing and other things; in fact, from dawn to dusk we interact with water at various levels of uses and life without water is just ineffective!

In the First Reading from the Book of Exodus, the Israelite people tormented by thirst in the wilderness are crying out for water. In the face of their mistrust, Moses believes in God's power to save; in the face of their grumbling, he lifts his hands in prayer; in answer to their testing, he proves God's presence by striking the rock to bring forth water.

St. Paul, in the Second Reading from his Letter to the Romans tells us that faith, hope and love are God's gifts to us. We are all God's chosen people called upon to live purified lives and God's love was poured into our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit that has been given to us through Christ. The gifts of God are like 'life-giving water' for us.

Today's gospel is a dialogue between Jesus, a Jew, and a Samaritan woman. She comes to fetch water from the well at noon time, Jesus asks for some water and that is the starting point of their conversation, the conversation takes different phases; Water, the cultural discrimination, worship of God, the prophets and their messages, life style, and finally ends up with transformation of life, acceptance of the community.

The woman at the well experiences a radical transformation in herself which prompts her to become a 'reconciling presence' of Jesus in the community which had kept her at the margins of the society. The image of this woman "leaving the water jug" brings out the newness of her life. We too find the stimulus to 'leave our own jug,' a symbol of everything that seems important to us but that loses its value before the 'love of God.' All of us have one or more than one of these water jugs. Let us ask ourselves, "what is my interior jug, which weighs me down, which distances me from God?" Let us leave it and listen with our heart to the voice of Jesus that offers us water, one that brings us closer to the Lord." (Pope Francis). As we experience the grace and untiring and unconditional love of Jesus, our perspective and approach to life will eventually change. And our mission starts from here! The mission of reaching out to the people around us and especially those who feel out of place or who have withdrawn themselves from the rest due to the fear, guilt etc, and bring forth the goodness and the divinity each of them possesses. Let us find life in Jesus and share the renewed life with others not only this season of Lent but until the end.

(Sources duly acknowledged)

**God's blessings**

**Fr. Vince**

# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

## First reading: Exodus 17:3-7

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9

**℟: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **℟**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us:  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **℟**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **℟**

## Second reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

## Gospel Acclamation:

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

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

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

## Gospel: John 4:5-42

*The water that I shall give will turn into Spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering  
and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink,  
you would have been the one to ask,  
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water  
will get thirsty again;  
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give  
will never be thirsty again:  
the water that I shall give  
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.'

'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming  
when you will worship the Father  
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know;  
we worship what we do know:

for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already –  
when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:

that is the kind of worshipper  
the Father wants.

God is spirit,  
and those who worship  
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

## Communion Antiphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

## 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.*



## International Women's Day 2026 BALANCE THE SCALES

#BalanceTheScales | #IWD2026

"All are equal before the law."

Yet the scales still tip.

This International Women's Day 2026,

#BalanceTheScales

is a call to close the gap

between promise and practice."

Prayers and wishes to every woman in our parish.



**THIS WEEKEND**

**7 / 8 MAR 2026**

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

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



**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.**

## News from St Mary's Primary School 8/9 March 2026

Last week St Mary's began accepting enrolments for children starting school in 2026.

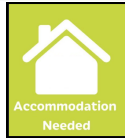
During Catholic Schools Week the school held tours for New Families

**- if you missed out simply contact the office to arrange a tour.**

**Please call (02) 8844 - 5700 for more information.**

**Enrolment forms are available online via the school's website**

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



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 12th 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

## 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

William (Bill) Blissenden

David Twomey

### Anniversaries

Giuseppe Di Ruocco

Rebecca Orsini

John Rodrigues

## PARISH ROSTERS

### 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 Clarese 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	

### 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>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	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
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Michael Majoor	Glenys Oxlee Helen Wong	Maya R Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tuti Sugita	Anne Fernando	
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Eddie Appleby	Linda Tsang Jessica Tapiador	Savannah S-F Madison A Sage G	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	<b>Lawn and Garden</b>	Michael Clark	

# 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 though 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)



## 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/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