



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

Sunday, 3 May 2026

“Truth isn't something we debate. It's someone we follow.”

- C.S. Lewis

I wonder if you have ever watched a documentary movie about Archbishop of Oscar Romero in central America, He was appointed as the archbishop of El Salvador in 1977. While this appointment was welcomed by the government, many priests were disappointed, especially those who were openly opposing the government for violating the rights of the poor farmers. The progressive priests feared that his conservative reputation would negatively affect liberation theology's commitment to the poor. Romero was deeply affected by the murder of his friend and fellow priest Rutilio Grande and thereafter became an outspoken critic of the military government of El Salvador. He experienced a conversion to the gospel of social justice for the poor and oppressed. On one occasion, one of Romero's richest friends came and asked him to baptize her baby. He was delighted. She suggested a Sunday in December and he said “Wonderful, that's a very popular time; there will be a lot of people coming to be baptized.” She expressed her dissatisfaction and told him that they were hoping for a private baptism. The archbishop said, “We don't do that,” She was furious and asked him, “You mean you want me to baptize my baby with a bunch of Indians?” He nodded his head, and she said, “You have deserted us”.

He was very vocal against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture of the poor people. The animosity began to grow, and he was shot dead in 1987 as he was celebrating mass in a chapel. During Romero's beatification, Pope Francis declared that his "ministry was distinguished by his particular attention to the most poor and marginalized." Pope Francis canonized Romero on 14 October 2018. There are tens and thousands of holy men and women who have sacrificed themselves to the cause of the poor and marginalized.

In today's first reading, we heard that the early Church recognized the link between faith in God and seeing and responding to the pain and suffering of those forgotten and invisible in the church and society. When the apostles were told that the Greek widows were neglected in the distribution of the food, they acted on it immediately by appointing seven deacons to look after the needs of the poor. Faith in action as James would point out in his epistle.

There are people who exercise superiority over others on the basis of race, colour of the skin, ethnicity, wealth, power and position etc. Perhaps we shall take a quick examination of conscience as to how many times we have felt that people- especially the poor, the sick, the migrants, prisoners - do not belong? There are millions of people living in abject poverty, and the children are starving, dying in wars, and hanging on to a bare existence in a world built on structural injustice, inequality, and destructive economic and political systems? The elderly are not supported, valued and respected. They are let to feel as though they are a burden.

On November 26, 1965, Time Magazine had a story that can give us all food for thought. An electrical fuse about the size of a breadbox failed, resulting in 80,000 square miles along the US-Canadian border being plunged in darkness. All the electrical power for that entire region passed through that single fuse. Without that fuse no power could reach any point in that vast region. Like that fuse box each of us has a tremendous potential for good or evil, which can affect a multitude. Today, in the second reading, Peter tells us that we are God's spiritual powerhouse. And Jesus promises us believers all His power and even more. All we have to do is walk the way he walked. As Jesus says in today's gospel, He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. (Sources duly acknowledged)

A couple of years back, I was privileged to have dinner with four couples. One of them is an Anglican by religion married to a catholic. In my conversation, he casually mentioned “though I am an Anglican, I have great respect for the Catholic Church because it has not diluted the Truth and the Faith as the Anglican church has done. I do hope, the Catholic Church stays that way in holding on to the Truth and the Faith”. Wow... what a challenging and uplifting manifestation of his faith. If we hold on to Jesus's Way, Truth, and do our part, the troubles of the world would be less threatening and troublesome.

God's blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First reading: Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

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

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R**

For 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**

Second reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed.

That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 14:1-12

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

Communion Antiphon:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS

All clergy, employees and volunteers in parish ministry are required by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019 to complete mandatory Safeguarding Training and have current up to date certifications.

The below Safeguarding Online Training Modules can be accessed and completed via <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/courses>

IF YOU ARE NEW TO MINISTRY:

Complete Safeguarding Training Introductory Modules 1-3 (Cycle 1).

IF YOU COMPLETED CYCLE 1 MODULES TWO YEARS AGO:

Complete Renewal Modules 4 and 5 (Cycle 2).

IF YOU RENEWED YOUR CYCLE 2 MODULES 4 & 5 TWO YEARS AGO:

Complete Refresher Module 6 (Cycle 3).

Alternatively, Face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities for May 2026 is as follows:

The next session of face-to-face mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on 6 May at St John Vianney, Doonside. More training opportunities are available throughout May at different parishes. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>.

For more information, please contact: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Please email a copy of your certificates ASAP to the Parish office via email: admin@holymary.org.au

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA A SAFE CHURCH FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK.



Congratulations

Jaxon, Lorianne & Theodore

who receive the Sacrament of Baptism
this Sunday 3rd May 2026.

We welcome them to our Parish.



NEXT SVDP CONFERENCE MEETING

on Tuesday 5th May
at 7:30pm

in the Parish Meeting Room
New members are welcome.

Please keep in your prayers
our 36 candidates who are receiving
the Sacrament of Confirmation
on the 15th May 2026.



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
Daniel Hamilton
David Hilvano
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

Imelda Escordial

Anniversaries

Maurice Emile
Anne Huet
Lynsay Huet
Christine Raoul
Victoria Pustaj
Carmen Vella

PARISH ROSTERS

2/3 May 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	Thomas Russo	Len Farrugia Sue Farrugia	Cristian A Jacob K	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres	Pierre Salomon	Linda Tsang Grace Coco Sheila Tapiador
Sun 8.00am	Glenys Oxlee	Angela Finnane Will Finnane	Bridget R Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tyrone Wiratunga Frank Camilleri		
Sun 10.00am	Eddie Appleby	Julia Tapiador Lynette Rodrigues	Avril L Savannah S-F Amelia I	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	Children's Liturgy Tamara Markarian Allison Markarian	Sunday 3/5/2026 at 10am John 14:1-12 <i>Jesus the way, truth, and life</i>	

9/10 May 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	Lynette Rodrigues	Leah Garcia Sr Maureen	Cristian A Clareese M	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres	Thomas Russo	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon Doreen
Sun 8.00am	Christopher Younis	Rozz Morris Michael Clark	Jensen M Judah M	Eric Flores Lina Flores	Marthe Nalletamby Donai Makoni	Sophie Russo	Tencaramedon Chandelle Culas
Sun 10.00am	Delilah Rodrigues	Cynthia Oscar Tinaye Makoni	Alessandro C Tashnie W Tashen W	Sheila Tapiador Evelyn Artiaga	Children's Liturgy Tamara Markarian Allison Markarian	Sunday 10/5/2026 at 10am John 14:15-21 <i>Jesus promises disciples the Paraclete.</i>	

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Be The Witness

DIRECTED BY JON-CLAIRE LEE

THE MUSICAL
THAT WILL TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND



COMING
SEPTEMBER
2026

PARRAMATTA
RIVERSIDE
THEATRE



2026 Sacramental Programme

Sacrament of
Confirmation
- 15th May 2026

Sacrament of
Reconciliation
- 18th August 2026

Sacrament of
Holy Eucharist
- 20th September 2026

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



We are working to engage young people aged between 12 and 35 to join our group.

We encourage our youth to come onboard.

If you would like to join us, we invite you to write your contact details on our Youth Group Register located at the back of the church.

The next Youth Group Meeting will be announced shortly.

For more details please contact:

Nazli Guler on **0426 243 016**

or **Jessica Tapiador** on **0403 201 252**

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.

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: Lynnette 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