



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

Office: 2 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere 2116

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

Website: www.holymary.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

Sunday, 26 April 2026

“The voice of God never forces us: God proposes himself; he does not impose himself. Instead, the evil voice seduces, assails, forces: it creates dazzling illusions, emotions that are tempting but passing.”

- Pope Francis

We are surrounded by many voices. There's rarely a moment within our waking lives that someone or something isn't calling out to us and, even in our sleep, dreams and nightmares ask for our attention. And each voice has its own particular cadence and message. Some voices invite us in, promising us life if we do this or that or buy a certain product or idea; others threaten us. Some voices beckon us towards hatred, bitterness, and anger, while others challenge us towards love, graciousness, and forgiveness. Some voices tell us that they are playful and humorous, not to be taken seriously, while others trumpet that they are urgent and weighty, the voice of non-negotiable truth, God's voice. Within all of these: Which is the voice of God? How do we recognize God's voice among and within all of these voices?

The Good Shepherd's voice is characterized by a "deep-water" peace. Even when he challenges us, it is with a sense of invitation, not condemnation. If a "call" makes us feel frantic or anxious, it's likely a thief at the gate. If it brings a quiet clarity and a sense of "rightness," it is likely the Shepherd. He tells us that he is the "Good Shepherd" and that his sheep will recognize his voice among all other voices. In sharing this metaphor, he is drawing upon a practice that was common among shepherds at the time: At night, for protection and companionship, shepherds would put their flocks together into a common enclosure. They would then separate the sheep in the morning by using their voices. Each shepherd had trained his sheep to be attuned to his voice and his voice only. The shepherd would walk away from the enclosure calling his sheep, often times by their individual names, and they would follow him. His sheep were so attuned to his voice that they would not follow the voice of another shepherd, even if that shepherd tried to trick them (shepherds often did this to try to steal someone else's sheep) by imitating the voice of their own shepherd. Like a baby who, at a point, will no longer be cuddled by the voice of a babysitter, but wants and needs the voice of the mother, each sheep recognized intimately the voice that was safeguarding them and would not follow another voice.

In the 1930s, a young man was applying for a job as a Morse code operator. The office was filled with the loud clatter of telegraph keys and applicants chatting. Suddenly, one man stood up and walked into the manager's office. He was hired instantly. When the others complained they hadn't been called, he said, "The ticker was tapping out a message in Morse: 'If you hear this, come right in. You have the job.' You were all so busy talking, you didn't hear the voice you were looking for."

Jesus is always "tapping out" a message of grace; we simply have to tune our hearts to His frequency. Recognizing Jesus in our neighbours requires a shift in how we listen. It is rarely found in the loudest opinions or the most "liked" posts. Instead, the Shepherd's voice has a distinct "accent"—it is the accent of integrity, mercy, and humility.

Consider the father tempted by a dishonest business deal who hears the Shepherd's call for truth through his child's simple question: "Is it still wrong if no one finds out?" Or the person feeling "spiritually lost" who hears a call to belong through a stranger's unexpected kindness in a checkout line. These aren't just coincidence; they are moments where the Shepherd uses a human voice to nudge us back toward the right path.

We also hear Him in the "hidden shepherds"—the coworkers who offer a listening ear without judgment, or the volunteers who serve quietly behind the scenes. They reflect the Shepherd who doesn't drive the flock with a whip but leads them by being present in the mud and the rain.

This week, let us challenge ourselves to listen differently. When someone challenges us to be better, offers us unmerited grace, or serves us without seeking credit, let us stop and recognize the source. The Shepherd is still calling us by name; He's just using the voices of those around us to do it.

God's blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.

First reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22:1-6

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: 1 Peter 2:20-25

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 10:1-10

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come
are thieves and brigands;
but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes
only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come
so that they may have life
and have it to the full.'

Communion Antiphon:

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



THANK YOU!

Caritas Australia would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Holy Name of Mary Parish community for your generous support of Project Compassion 2026. Your support is helping to bring hope, uphold dignity and create lasting change to communities facing poverty and injustice around the world. Together, your community raised an incredible \$9,788.30 helping to bring clean water, education, nutritious food, healthcare and support for those living with disability - showing what's possible when we come together as a Church to live out the Gospel message of love and justice. Thank you for uniting with us this Lent to build a more just and compassionate world.



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 2 May at St Joseph's Parish, Kingswood. 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.

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

Chafica Chalouh

Anniversaries

Gertrude D'Souza

PARISH ROSTERS

25/26 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	Yolanda Urqueza Romeo Urqueza	Ruby P	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Francis Mathew	Anton Massillamany	Barbara Rosario Lynette Rodrigues
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Naom Younis	Barbara Rosario Ron Della Vedova	Maya R	Eric Flores Lina Flores	Bill O'Shea Sheila Tapiador	Vartguess Markarian	
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	Eddie Appleby	Linda Tsang Joseph Andrews	Ava E Isabella N Tashnie W Tashen W	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues			

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>
<u>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</u>	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
<u>Sun 8.00am</u>	Glenys Oxlee	Angela Finnane Will Finnane	Bridget R Tara C	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tyrone Wiratunga Frank Camilleri		
<u>Sun 10.00am</u>	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>	

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