



# Weekly Bulletin

**Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish**

**4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere**

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**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A**

**Sunday, 17 May 2026**

**There's always another level up. There's always another ascension.**

**More grace, more light, more generosity, more compassion, more to shed, more to grow.**

**- Elizabeth Gilbert**

Today we are celebrating the feast of the ascension of our Lord! This feast marks an end and a beginning! Jesus victoriously completes his earthly journey and goes back to the Father; for the followers it is a beginning of their mission- to identify and to transform. On the Feast of the Ascension, we encounter one of the most provocative questions in Scripture: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" (Acts 1:11). The disciples were overjoyed at the sight of Jesus. Perhaps they wanted to hang on to such a life with Jesus. But there comes again the pain of parting with Jesus. Their action of looking up perhaps reflects their attitude of getting stuck on the departure and expecting some miraculous thing to happen. Perhaps they were still hesitant to venture out to face the realities of life. At this juncture, the angels have to make these disciples move forward with the promise of the continual presence of Jesus and the returning of Jesus. (I can imagine a scenario of the father of a family leaving abroad for a job and the mother telling the child that their dad would be coming back). Taking the message of the angels, the disciples go out on a mission of transforming society. The people who were looking up toward heaven started looking around without losing the base of being in the presence of Jesus.

In the context of our life, could that be tantamount to saying: Why are you still dwelling in the past? Why do you still hold on to your anger? Why do you harbor such ill feelings and grudges towards people? Why don't you come out of your anti-social behavior, such as drugs, drinking etc.? Why do you hang around those who have a bad influence on you? Why are you always praying for peace to God while you are not ready to resolve the issues in your relationships? So on, and so forth.

There should be a unitary approach to our life. A balanced life founded on God and lived out in the community. There is nothing to gain by holding on to the past painful memories, hurts, loss. We must be ready to let go and move forward in our life. Perhaps, we may have to lose something to reach our destination.

- Mother Teresa is perhaps the most famous example of someone who refused to "stand looking up" while there was work to be done. She often taught her sisters the "Gospel on five fingers," based on Matthew 25:40: "You—did—it—to—Me." A powerful faith story recounts a dying Hindu man who, after receiving her care asked her, "Is Jesus like you?". Because she stopped gazing at the heavens and started looking at the "distressing disguise of the poor," her life became the evidence of Jesus who had ascended. She didn't just preach about a distant God; she made his presence tangible on earth.
- In a contemporary reflection on Acts 1, a preacher once shared a story about a man who spent his life studying the theology of the Ascension. He was obsessed with the "mechanics" of how Jesus went to heaven. One day, while he was lost in thought, a homeless man asked him for help. The scholar, annoyed by the interruption of his "holy thoughts," ignored him. Later, he realized the irony: he was exactly like the disciples staring at the sky while the "man in white" (the angels) stood right beside them. He realized that the "men in white" in our lives aren't always angels—sometimes they are the neighbors in need who are the reason we should stop staring and start serving. He began a ministry called "The Ascension Outward," focusing on finding Christ in the faces of those his community had previously overlooked.

Today, let us stop "looking up" and start "looking out," trusting that the same Jesus who ascended is with us always, even until the end of the age.

**God's blessings**

**Fr. Vince**

# This Sunday's Readings



## Entrance Antiphon:

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

## First reading: Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9

**℟: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **℟**

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **℟**

God is king of all the earth,  
sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **℟**

## Second reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel - Matthew 28:16-20

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

## Communion Antiphon:

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



## **ATTENTION: VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL PARISH MINISTRIES**

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:**

There are several face-to-face mandatory Safeguarding Training opportunities 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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

**Please submit a copy of your certificate ASAP to the Parish office via email: [admin@holymary.org.au](mailto: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*

Congratulations to the 36 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 15 May 2026.  
Thank you to Lynette Rodrigues and her team for preparing the children for the sacrament.



### **NEXT SVDP CONFERENCE MEETING**

on Tuesday 19th May  
at 7pm

in the Parish Meeting Room  
**New members are welcome.**



## *Congratulations*

**Ashley**

who receives the Sacrament of Baptism  
this Sunday 17th May 2026.

**We welcome him to our Parish.**

## **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

Patrick Gelle  
Daniel Hamilton  
David Hilvano  
Charmaine Jakober  
Martin Jakober  
Lorna Lagarto  
Rey Legaspi  
Maria-Trinidad Lim  
Romenda McGregor

Rosemary Romeo  
Ned Powlr  
Kaz Seremet  
Hayden Thomson  
Alexander Velasquez  
Alan Tracy Villarosa  
Pia Ylagan

### *Recently Deceased*

Ronald Kennedy

### *Anniversaries*

John Liang  
Frank Moio

## **PARISH ROSTERS**

### **16/17 May 2026**

	<b>Computer Operators</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>EMHC</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Cleaning Ministry</b>	<b>Altar Society</b>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	George Davidson	Lynette Rodrigues Anne-Marie Hawkins	Harriet S Zachary C Jacob K	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	David Boulous Susan Boulous	Thess Davidson & Family	Pam McKay Annabel Manlutac Maria Dowling Ross Morris
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Anne Fernando	Ron Della Vedova Anton Fernando		Barbara Rosario Helen Wong	Tuti Sugita		
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Vartguess Markarian	Edlyne Salvador Astrid Kossim	Madison A Sage G	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> Jane Homann Delilah Rodrigues		<b>Lawn &amp; Garden</b> Michael Clark

### **23/24 May 2026**

	<b>Computer Operators</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Altar Servers</b>	<b>EMHC</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Cleaning Ministry</b>	<b>Altar Society</b>
<b>Sat Vigil 5.30pm</b>	Tracy Samuel	Romeo Urqueza Yolanda Urqueza	Ruby P	Diane O'Shea Michelle Archarya	David Boulous Susan Boulous	Anton Fernando	Lily Hon O.Ham Maria Greenfield
<b>Sun 8.00am</b>	Naom Younis	Chris Twomey Maree Twomey	Maya R	Eric Flores Lina Flores	Lawrence Tsang Sheila Delos Reyes	Anne Fernando	
<b>Sun 10.00am</b>	Anne Fernando	Lorna Argal Nada Coorey	Ava E Isabella N Tashnie W Tashen W	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade	<b>Children's Liturgy</b> Diane O'Shea		

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**This weekend**  
**16 -17 May 2026**  
 Please give generously.  
 Donations are tax deductible.

**Our parish is proud to support the Bishop's Good Works Appeal**  
 Each day across our Diocese, people turn to the Church for care, hope, guidance and belonging. The Bishop's Good Works Appeal helps support the good works of our Church across several vital ministries, including Holy Spirit Seminary, Catholic Care, the Ephpheta Centre, and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.  
**This first Bishop's Good Works Appeal will support Holy Spirit Seminary at Harris Park, helping form the future priests our Diocese will need in the years ahead.**  
**Your tax-deductible gift helps provide the education, spiritual formation, pastoral training and safe accommodation our seminarians need as they answer God's call.**



With your support, they can continue preparing to serve our parishes with faith, compassion and hope.

Thank you for supporting the future priests of our Church.



**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](mailto: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 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](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