



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Sunday, 16 August 2026

“Faith breaks walls. Love builds bridges.”

There are walls made of bricks and concrete, but there are also invisible walls—walls of prejudice, fear, language, culture, social status and misunderstanding. Sometimes these invisible walls can be stronger than physical ones. The Gospel this Sunday introduces us to a woman who refuses to allow any wall to separate her from Jesus.

The Canaanite woman was an outsider. She did not belong to the Jewish community, and she had no social status or privilege that could give her access to Jesus. Yet she came to him with courage and persistence: “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Even when she seemed to receive no immediate answer, she did not walk away. Her love for her suffering daughter gave her the courage to keep asking, keep trusting and keep hoping. In the end, Jesus recognises the depth of her faith: “Woman, you have great faith!”

Her story speaks powerfully to us today. Faith is not always about receiving an immediate answer. Sometimes faith means continuing to knock when the door appears closed, continuing to pray when heaven seems silent, and continuing to hope when circumstances tell us to give up.

Australia knows something about this kind of courage and perseverance. In 2010, the world watched as 33 Chilean miners were rescued after being trapped underground for 69 days. Their survival was made possible by extraordinary courage, cooperation and determination. Families waited above ground, refusing to abandon hope, while engineers, rescuers and people around the world worked together. When the first miner finally emerged into daylight, it was a powerful reminder that even in the darkest circumstances, hope can keep people alive.

The Canaanite woman had that same spirit. She refused to allow rejection, difference or difficulty to have the final word. Her faith became stronger than the barriers around her. Her story is particularly meaningful for Australia today. We are a nation blessed with people from many cultures, languages and traditions. Our Catholic parishes reflect this wonderful diversity. As you are seated here in the Church, have a quick look around and see the people from different countries and backgrounds gathered around the same altar to pray to the same God and to receive the same Eucharistic Lord. This is one of the beautiful signs of the Kingdom of God.

Yet diversity does not automatically remove the walls between us. We can still create invisible barriers. A newcomer may feel like a stranger. Someone who speaks English with difficulty may feel embarrassed. An elderly person may come to Mass alone. A young person may wonder whether there is a place for them. A refugee or migrant may carry the pain of being misunderstood. Sometimes one simple word, one impatient gesture or one failure to notice another person can make someone feel that they do not belong. The Gospel challenges us to do something different. We are called to build bridges rather than walls.

A wall says, “You stay there.” A bridge says, “Come, let us meet.” A wall separates; a bridge connects. The Canaanite woman herself becomes a kind of bridge between peoples. Her encounter with Jesus reminds us that God’s mercy is always greater than the boundaries human beings create.

Australia has been enriched by countless people who have crossed borders and built new lives. Among our most inspiring examples is St Mary MacKillop, who refused to ignore the needs of poor children and families. Her life was marked by difficulties, opposition and uncertainty, but she continued to trust God and serve those in need. Her well-known words, “Never see a need without doing something about it,” capture beautifully the practical faith to which today’s Gospel calls us.

Perhaps this Sunday, we should ask ourselves a simple question: Who is the person around me who needs a bridge? It may be someone new in our parish whom nobody has welcomed. It may be a lonely neighbour. It may be a family going through difficulties. It may be someone whose language or culture is different from ours. It may even be someone with whom we have a disagreement.

We do not always need to do something extraordinary. Sometimes building a bridge begins with something very small: a smile, a handshake, a conversation, an invitation to sit with us, a cup of coffee, or simply the words, “How are you?”

Such small gestures can become great expressions of Christian faith. The Canaanite woman teaches us that faith refuses to give up, love refuses to exclude, and mercy refuses to build walls. Her faith began with a desperate cry for her daughter, but her encounter with Jesus became a testimony for generations. In today’s Australia, may our homes and parishes become places where nobody feels like a stranger. May we welcome people of every culture and generation. May we notice those who are lonely, encourage those who are discouraged, and reach out to those who feel forgotten. Let us become people who build bridges—between cultures, generations, families and communities. Above all, let us build bridges that lead people towards Christ.

For when someone feels forgotten, let us notice them. When someone feels excluded, let us welcome them. When someone feels hopeless, let us bring hope. And when someone feels like a stranger, may our words and actions say: “You belong here.” That is the faith of the Canaanite woman. That is the challenge of the Gospel. And that is the kind of faith our world needs today. (Sources duly acknowledged) (Sources duly acknowledged)

God’s blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First reading: Isaiah 56:1,6-7

I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R**

Second reading: Romans 11:13-15,29-32

With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them.

Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: - Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite woman debates with Jesus and saves her daughter.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon:

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord.

Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



The Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary is pleased to invite you to a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating 100 years of our international community

Sunday 13th September 2026

Main celebrant:
The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP
Archbishop of Sydney

Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start
Celebration to conclude at approximately 3pm

The day will begin with Holy Mass followed by
light refreshments and a program

RSVP is required for catering purposes
by 1st September 2026




Parish bus groups are encouraged,
and registration is necessary for parking

General parking will be available onsite in the valley

An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
will be available for viewing in the Family Hall
from 8:30am - 6:00pm

230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745
www.schoenstatt.org.au sistersjubilee@schoenstatt.org.au

Be The Witness

— THE MUSICAL —

The story of Jesus, through the eyes of Peter

BOOK NOW

10-13 September 2026
Riverside Theatres
Parramatta



THE MUSICAL

THAT WILL TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND

But it's so much more than a musical. It's a movement. Andrew brought his brother Peter to Christ - Who will you bring?

Don't miss out! Book Now  Limited Seats

Bring your group to Be The Witness – The Musical and save! Book 4+ tickets and save \$5 per ticket, or book 10+ tickets and save up to \$10 per ticket! Terms and conditions apply. This is a perfect opportunity for churches, ministry groups, and friends coming together for an unforgettable musical experience! Don't miss out

www.bethewitness.com.au

With the support and encouragement of Bishop Vincent Long

Presented by Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

Children's Liturgy of the Word

All children are warmly invited to join Children's Liturgy during the **10:00am Sunday Mass**.

Upcoming dates: Sunday 16 August, 30 August and 13 September 2026.



Let us pray for the...

Wellbeing & Health

George Asic
Cristina Assuncao
Mario Borsellino
Maree Buttenshaw
Michael Clarke
Kath Clinton
Margaret Constable
Patrick Coughlan
Den-Toll Family
Al Alam Family

Younis Family
Darryl Fernandes
Patrice Gelle
Daniel Hamilton
David Hilvano
Klara Jakober
Janine
Denise Kassiss
Lorna Lagarto
Rey Legaspi

Maria-Trinidad Lim
Romenda McGregor
Joan Nayler
Nelune Rajapakse
Rosemary Romeo
Ned Powlr
Kaz Seremet
Hayden Thomson
Alexander Velasquez
Alan Tracy Villarosa
Pia Ylagan

Recently Deceased

Betty Hansen
Denise Guisti

Anniversaries

Florentina Acon
Peter Anderson
Filipinas De Los Reyes
Estelito Fenis Jr
Isabel Hidalgo
Elias Hkiek
Rosalisa Moger
Bill Ryan
Helen, Joseph, Jim & Gabriela Wehbe

PARISH ROSTERS

15/16 August 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	Len Farrugia Sue Farrugia	Ruby P	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Francis Mathew Bill O'Shea Sheila Tapiador	Moinica Jung	Lily Hon O. Ham Maria Greenfield
Sun 8.00am	Anne Fernando	Chris Twomey MareeTwomey	Maya R Ava E Isabella N Tashnie W Tashen W	Eric Flores Lina Flores	Children's Liturgy. Jane Homann Nic Padden		Lawn & Garden Robert Spinetti
Sun 10.00am	Eddie Appleby	Cynthia Oscar Tinaye Makoni		Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade			

22/23 August 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	Anne-Marie Hewkins Leah Garcia	Christian A. Jacob K.	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres Danai Makoni	Susan Boulous & Family	Therese Ball Lesley Long
Sun 8.00am	Naom Younis	Rozz Morris Jodie MacGregor	Bridget R. Tara C.	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong			Lawn & Garden Romeo Urqueza
Sun 10.00am	Delilah Rodrigues	Lorna Argal Nada Coorey	Avril L. Amelia I.	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



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

Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 18th August 2026

Sacrament of Holy Eucharist
- 20th September 2026



Vinnie's Winter Appeal 2026 Receipts

Receipts of your donation are available on the table at the church's entrance.

Many thanks for your generosity.

God bless you.

Ron Della Vedova

(President of the Rydalmere Conference of SVDP)

"It is a blessing to live simply so others may simply live."

(Source unknown)



ATTENTION: VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL PARISH MINISTRIES

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding

Our Commitment to Safeguarding is guided by the words of Micah 6:8: 'This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.' For more information, please visit the Diocese of Parramatta Safeguarding website: <https://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/>
For any queries, please contact the parish office on (02) 96841541 or alternatively, email at 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.

PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS

MY WEEKLY COMMITMENT

Holy Name of Mary Rydalmere



Amount \$ _____

If you require a tax receipt for the 2025-2026 financial year, please email your request to Deacon Leon at:

accounts@holymary.org.au

Thank you.

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 16 Aug. - 11:30am
Sunday 20 Sept. - 11:30am
Sunday 18 Oct. - 11:30am
Sunday 22 Nov. - 11:30am
Sunday 13 Dec. - 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.

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

Cecilia
Parish Secretary
Tue/Wed/Thur/Fri
9am to 4pm

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