



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Sunday, 23 August 2026

“The Church is a verb, not a noun; it is something we do, not somewhere we go.”

- Brian D. McLaren

A new pastor in Topeka, Kansas, USA, spent the first four days making personal visits to each of his prospective congregation inviting them to come to his inaugural services. The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the ‘funeral’. In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin which was covered in flowers. After the priest had delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church. Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a ‘dead church’, all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each ‘mourner’ peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look. In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

In the gospel of this Sunday, we see Peter answering Jesus’s question, “who do you say I am?” and in reply Jesus telling him, “You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

This passage is crucial for a proper understanding of what the church is, and our role in the church. For this is the most explicit statement that Jesus makes in the Gospels about the church. It gives us great hope that Jesus chooses Peter to become the rock upon which He will build His Church. Yet Peter was far from perfect. He was impulsive, sometimes fearful, and would later deny Jesus three times. Nevertheless, Jesus trusted him and worked through him. This reminds us that the Church has never been a community of perfect people. It is a community of people who are continually being transformed by God's grace. Our failures and weaknesses do not necessarily disqualify us from God's service. Like Peter, we are called not because we are perfect, but because God can work through us.

Jesus gives Peter the keys of the Kingdom. Keys open doors. This offers us a beautiful image of Christian discipleship. We are called to become people who open doors for others: doors of forgiveness, hope, friendship, welcome and faith.

In a world often marked by division and exclusion, the Church is called to be a place where people discover that they belong. Our parish should be more than a place where we come together for Sunday Mass. It should be a community where the lonely find friendship, the discouraged find hope, those who have drifted away find welcome, and those searching for God find a path towards Christ. Perhaps, then, the Gospel invites each of us to ask ourselves: Do my words and actions open doors for people to encounter Christ, or do they close doors? Today, Jesus asks each of us personally: “Who do you say that I am?” May our answer not be expressed only in words but through the way we live. May we be able to say: Lord, you are the one I turn to when I am afraid. You are my hope when I cannot see the way forward. You are the one who forgives me when I fail and teaches me to forgive others. You are the one who gives meaning and direction to my life. Like Peter, may we confidently proclaim: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And may our lives become a living response to that profession of faith: knowing Christ, following Christ, trusting Christ, and helping others discover Christ. (Sources acknowledged)

God’s blessings



Fr Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you
all the day long.

First reading: Isaiah 22:19-23 ·

*I place the key of the House of David on my
servant's shoulder.*

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the
master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father

to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 137(138):1-3,6,8

***℟: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the
work of your hands.***

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. ***℟***

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. ***℟***

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. ***℟***

Second reading: Romans 11:33-36

*All that exists comes from Him; all is by Him and
from Him.*

How rich are the depths of God – how deep His
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to
penetrate His motives or understand His methods!
Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who
could ever be His counsellor? Who could ever give
Him anything or lend Him anything? All that exists
comes from Him; all is by Him and for Him. To Him be
glory forever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my
Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel: - Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi
he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people
say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he
is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah
or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do
you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are
the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus
replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man!
Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed
this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to
you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my
Church. And the gates of the underworld can never
hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall
be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose
on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then
he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone
that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon:

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

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, 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

Michael Doherty
Darryl Fernandes
Patrice Gelle
Daniel Hamilton
David Hilvano
Klara Jakober
Janine
Denise Kassis
Lorna Lagarto
Rey Legaspi
Rosa Urqueza

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

Emely Borg
Graziella Orlandi

Anniversaries

Isabel Hidalgo
George Coorey

PARISH ROSTERS							
22/23 August 2026							
	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	George Davidson	Anne-Marie Hewkins Leah Garcia	Cristian A. Jacob K.	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres Tyrone Wiratunga	Susan Boulous & Family	Therese Ball Lesley Long
Sun 8.00am	Naom Younis	Rozz Morris Jodie MacGregor	Bridget R. Tara C.	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong			
Sun 10.00am	Delilah Rodrigues	Lorna Argal Nada Coorey	Avril L. Amelia I.	Sheila Tapiador Elaine Gade			Lawn & Garden Romeo Urqueza

29/30 August 2026							
	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Tracy Samuel	Sr Maureen Lynette Rodriguez	Cristian A. Clareese M.	Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	Evelyn Noviza Carleen Borres Danai Makoni	Anton Massillamany Vartguess Markarian	Barbara Rosario Lynette Rodrigues
Sun 8.00am	Michael Majoor	Angela & Will Finnane	Jensen M. Judah M.	Eric Flores Lina Flores			
Sun 10.00am	Vartguess Markarian	Sam Markarian	Alessandro C. Isabella N. Tashnie W. Tashen W.	Lynette Rodrigues Dominic Rodrigues		Children's Liturgy Tamara Markarian Allison Markarian	Lawn & Garden Romeo Urqueza

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Sacrament of Holy Eucharist
- 20th September 2026
- 27th September 2026

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



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)

IN MEMORIAM

Emely Borg, who passed away on 17 August 2026.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband of 65 years, John and all her family.

May eternal rest be granted to her, O Lord!

Funeral service: 10am, Monday, 24 August 2026

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish.

Burial: Macquarie Park Cemetery

Wake: Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club

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 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**.

MY WEEKLY COMMITMENT

Holy Name of Mary Rydalmere

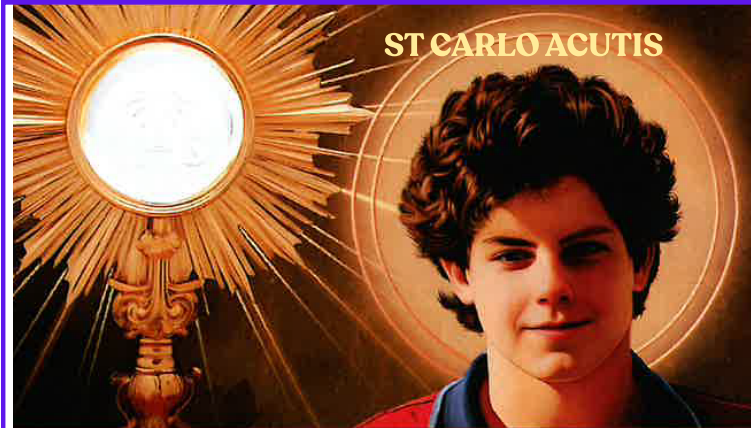
PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS

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.



RELIC & EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION & VENERATION

Tuesday, 1 & Wednesday, 2 September

Exhibition entry - hourly from 10am - 4pm

TWO SPECIAL EVENING EVENTS

5:30 - 9:00pm, Tuesday 1 September

Evening Prayer & Adoration

5:30 - 9:00pm, Wednesday 2 September

Guest Lecture & Adoration

FREE REGISTRATION



CAMPION.EDU.AU/EVENTS

Venue: **Campion College, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Pl Toongabbie NSW 2146**

Further details can be found at campion.edu.au/event/carlo-acutis/.

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