



Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

4 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Sunday, 27 September 2026

“The true measure of our character is not what we say, but whether our actions give credibility to our words.”

The Gospel parable of the two sons seems simple and straightforward on the surface. Yet, given the context in which Jesus spoke and the religious authorities He addressed, it is nothing short of explosive. In the story, the sinners and those kept at the margins of society welcomed Jesus' message with openness, heeding the call to conversion. Meanwhile, the religious leaders—the very people expected to lead the way—stubbornly refused to change. The parable forces us to ask a difficult question: Who is better between these two sons? Is it the one who initially said "no" but ultimately fulfilled his father's wish, or the one who said "yes" but did absolutely nothing? Naturally, we might lean toward the son who eventually obeyed. But when we look closer at our own lives, we find ourselves constantly trying to choose between flawed realities. Consider these common human dilemmas:

Who is better: a discourteous spouse who stays sober, or a drunkard who is incredibly kind when clear-headed? Who is better: a nagging spouse who runs an efficient household, or a disorderly one who is deeply affectionate? Who is better: a popular teacher who strays from the lesson, or a strict instructor from whom the students learn a great deal? Who is better: a churchgoing Catholic who acts like a dictator at home, or a fallen-away Catholic who remains deeply connected to their children?

When we are honest, we must admit that none of these compromises are truly acceptable. Neither son in the parable is a perfect model because both caused their father pain—one at the beginning through rebellion, and the other at the end through neglect. Both could have been better sons by giving a wholehearted, spontaneous, and joyful "Yes" and then matching that promise with immediate action.

True Christian discipleship demands absolute consistency between what we say and what we do. We are called to be better than both sons. This disconnect between words and actions is illustrated perfectly by the story of a businessman who was in the middle of ordering 500 ballpoint pens from an office equipment salesman. As the salesman began writing down the details, the buyer suddenly stopped him and shouted, "Hold on! I am cancelling the order." The salesman was stunned and left the store empty-handed. Later, the businessman's surprised bookkeeper asked him why he changed his mind so abruptly. The businessman replied angrily, "Because he talked to me about the excellence of his ballpoint pens for half an hour, using every convincing argument in the book—and then he wrote out my order with a pencil! His practice did not agree with his profession. No one likes empty promises. We see this everywhere in society; we are wary of politicians who promise exceptional benefits before an election, and we only patronize businesses that live up to their advertisements. "Seeing is believing." Yet, how often do we fail to apply this same standard to our faith?

These are the people whose words are flawless, but their lives tell a different story. They believe they are good simply because they hold a title or follow the rules outwardly. They declare, "I am a Catholic because I was baptized." This trap is vividly captured in C. Mooney's book, *To Hell on Monday*. It depicts Christians who conform perfectly on Sundays—occupying the pews, contributing to the collection, and visibly serving in parish organizations. But on Monday morning, religion is thrown to the wind. The law of God is tucked away into a back pocket, forgotten in marital relations, ignored in how they treat household workers, and abandoned in competitive business dealings where honesty and justice are cast aside. On the other end of the spectrum are those whose actions are far better than their words. They might claim to be tough, non-religious, or entirely detached from the Church. Yet, in secret, they are caught performing deeply kind, generous, and "Robin Hood-style" acts of charity, almost as if they are ashamed of their own goodness.

Ultimately, Christ calls us away from both extremes. God does not want us to choose between a holy Sunday and an unholy Monday, nor does He want us to hide our faith behind a wall of cynicism. As we reflect on this Gospel, let us look into our hearts and ask ourselves: Are we truly practicing what we profess? Are we consistent? Let us strive this week to translate our noble promises into noble performances, transforming our fine words into faithful, daily deeds. (Sources duly acknowledged)



This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon: Dn 3: 31, 29, 30, 43, 42

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows:
'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you
House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you
do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his
integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies
because of the evil that he himself has committed.
When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding
and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to
renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he
shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24(25):4-9

R: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. **R**

Second reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Be united in your love.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can
persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or
any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your
convictions and united in your love, with a common
purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing
which would make me completely happy. There must be
no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody
is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person
to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his
own interests first but everybody thinks of other
people's interests instead.

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.*

Alleluia!

Gospel: - Matthew 21:28-32

*Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of
God before you.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people,
'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and
said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard
today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards
thought better of it and went. The man then went and said
the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly,
sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?'
'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you
solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their
way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to
you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not
believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and
believe in him.'

Communion Antiphon: Jn 10: 14

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

2026 Sacramental Program

**First Holy Communion Mass @ 12 Noon on:
- 27th September 2026**

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



ST CARLO ACUTIS

Major Pilgrim Relic Visit of St Carlo Acutis

28-30 September | St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
Come and pray with the relic of St Carlo Acutis and discover his inspiring devotion to the Eucharist. The three-day visit beginning at 4pm on Monday 28 September includes Holy Mass, relic veneration, blessings, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession and an exhibition on Eucharistic Miracles.

Please see the flyer for the full program, times and activities.

All are welcome - bring your family and friends!



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 18 Oct. - 11:30am

Sunday 29 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.



Congratulations to Our First Communicants!

Heartfelt congratulations to all our children who receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. May this beautiful day be the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Christ.

May Jesus always be their strength, joy, and guide, and may their families continue to nurture their faith with love and prayer.

Congratulations, dear children! May God bless you abundantly and keep you close to His heart.

Fr Vince

Holy Name of Mary Parish

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Expression of Interest

We invite children from Kindergarten to Year 7 to take part in our Christmas Eve Role Play Nativity.

CHRISTMAS EVE
More details to come!

MULTIPLE ROLES TO FILL
Acting and reading roles available.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
We welcome all children from Kindergarten to Year 7 to get involved.

INTERESTED?
Please fill in the Google Form to express your interest.
Tamara Markarian and Ela Torres will contact you shortly.

Let's celebrate the true meaning of Christmas together as a parish community.

We are desperately short of both Readers & Computer Operators for the Vigil Mass.

The next Readers' roster will be compiled to cover November 2026 to the end February 2027, and the Computer Operators' roster will run from December 2026 to the end May 2027.

Training will be given for both roles. Volunteers for the Sunday Masses are always welcome. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to join one or both of these rosters.

For reading by Sunday 11th October & for the computer roster by Sunday 15th November,

please contact: Glenys Oxlee at glmaox@gmail.com or 0488 228 633

Let us pray for the...

Wellbeing & Health

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

Al Alam Family
Michael Doherty
Darryl Fernandes
Patrice Gelle
Daniel Hamilton
David Hilvano
Klara Jakober
Janine
Denise Kassis
Lorna Lagarto

Rey Legaspi
Maria-Trinidad Lim
Fr Michael Maroun
Romenda McGregor
Joan Nayler
Nelune Rajapakse
Rosemary Romeo
Ned Powlr
Kaz Seremet
Hayden Thomson

Rosa Urqueza
Alexander Velasquez
Alan Tracy Villarosa
Pia Ylagan
Younis Family

Recently Deceased

Inez Atega Jovellana
Micah Minge

Anniversaries

Fernando Pahilagmago
Mark Mariano Stephen
Patrick Boswell West

PARISH ROSTERS

26/27 September 2026

Computer Operators

Sat Vigil 5.30pm

Thomas Russo

Sun 8.00am

Christopher Younis

Sun 10.00am

Eddie Appleby

Lectors

Leah Garcia
Anne-Marie Hewkins

Glenys Oxlee
Barbara Rosario

Cynthia Oscar
Sam Markarian

Altar Servers

Cristian A.
Clareese M.

Jensen M.
Judah M.

Alessandro C.
Isabella N.
Tashnie W.
Tashen W.

EMHC

Diane O'Shea
Michelle Acharya

Eric Flores
Lina Flores

Evelyn Artiaga
Elaine Gade

Counters

Kathleen Burrows
Barbara Rosario
Geoff Rosario

Cleaning Ministry

Anton & Anne
Fernando

Altar Society

Lily Hon
O. Ham
Maria Greenfield

Lawn & Garden

Romeo Urqueza

03/04 October 2026

Computer Operators

Sat Vigil 5.30pm

George Davidson

Sun 8.00am

Anne Fernando

Sun 10.00am

Delilah Rodrigues

Lectors

Lynette Rodrigues
Sr Maureen

Chris & Maree
Twomey

Lorna Argal
Linda Tsang

Altar Servers

Harriet S.
Zachary C.

Maya R.
Tara C.

Sage G.

EMHC

Susan Boulous
Kathy Saad

Barbara Rosario
Helen Wong

Sheila Tapiador
Elaine Gade

Counters

Francis Mathew
Lynette Rodrigues
Dominic Rodrigues

Cleaning Ministry

Jing Tapiador

Altar Society

Therese Ball
Lesley Long

Lawn & Garden

Robert Spinetti

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

EXTENDED ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May I kindly ask everyone who wishes to participate in the extended adoration of the Eucharist to **register their details and preferred time of attendance**. This will help us organise the Adoration smoothly, ensure adequate coverage throughout the hours, and assist us in maintaining a **safe and prayerful environment** for everyone.

Your registration will ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left unattended.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us make this a beautiful and meaningful time of prayer before the Lord.

~~~~~ **Fr Vince** ~~~~~



## CALLING VOLUNTEERS

TO CLOSE THE CHURCH AT 9:00 pm, Monday to Friday  
AFTER THE EXTENDED EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.

*Please come & see us at the Parish Office.  
THANK YOU!*



## Interested in becoming Catholic?



The Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a journey of faith, discovery, and transformation.

Whether you are exploring the Catholic faith for the first time or considering completing your Sacraments, you are welcome here.



Take the next step in your faith journey.  
*All are welcome!*

To contact the RCIA Coordinator, Nazli Guler, please call 0426 243 016.

*We look forward to seeing you!* ♥

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE INVITATION



### YEAR OF ST FRANCIS

During this special Year of Saint Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, the Church grants a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, including the visit to a Franciscan church or a place associated with Saint Francis.

**Date:** Saturday 17 October 2026. **Time:** 10am Benediction & Rosary, Mass & Fellowship.

**Venue:** Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, KELLYVILLE.

### PLEASE BRING A PLATE TO SHARE FOR LUNCH.

**RSVP:** Use the Year of St Francis - Pilgrimage Sign Up Sheet, found on the tables at the entry to the church, OR via SMS to Michelle on 0408 809 355.

**NEED A LIFT:** please contact Glenys Oxlee via mobile 0488 228 633 or via email to: glmaox@gmail.com

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



### ALL SOULS DAY

Monday, 02 November 2026.  
Masses at: 9:15am & 7:00pm

FURTHER DETAILS TO COME



**PARISH VOLUNTEERS THANKSGIVING**  
Thursday, 05 November 2026

FURTHER DETAILS TO COME



### HEALING MASS FOR PARISH RETIREES

Friday, 04 December 2026.  
Mass at: 11:30am followed by Fellowship

FURTHER DETAILS TO COME

## 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)

Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 9:00 pm  
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