

Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT **Sunday, 29 November 2026**

REFLECTION

With the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King, we end the liturgical year. With the start of the Season of Advent today—the time of waiting for the Lord's coming—we begin a new liturgical year. Thus, the whole liturgical year begins with the waiting for the coming of Jesus and ends with his proclamation as King of heaven and earth.

How to conduct ourselves during Advent is made concrete by Jesus with the Parable of the Watchful Servants. They are asked to be on the watch for their master's unannounced return (Mk 13:33-37). *Be watchful! Be alert*!

Jesus comes to us in two ways. The first coming had already taken place when the *Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us*. Jesus then came as Saviour—to save humankind from sin. This was the long-awaited event by the Jewish people in the Old Testament. This event we commemorate on Christmas Day. The second is Jesus' coming in the *end time*. Jesus, now seated at the right hand of the Father, will come again but this time as Judge.

We live between the two comings of Jesus. During this time, the primary concern of Jesus (which should also be ours) is for us to allow him to come into our hearts as our Saviour. The degree of our acceptance of Jesus as our Saviour depends on how we live according to his teachings and examples. If we allow him to influence our every thought, word and deed, in our daily living, then we are prepared for his coming as Judge.

The parable ends with Jesus telling us that no one knows when his final coming will take place, *"You do not know when the time will come"*. For this reason, he wants us to be always vigilant and alert lest we are caught sleeping and therefore unprepared for judgment. To make sure we understand what he is telling us, Jesus compares this watchfulness with that of the servants whom their master places in charge of his household before going on a long journey. Specifically, he orders the watchman to be on the alert for his return. And what he tells the watchman applies to all his other servants as well as to us: *Be watchful! Be alert!... May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping*.

With this, Jesus tells us what sort of watchfulness is demanded of us. We are not to be idle while we wait. On the contrary, we are to be engaged in productive activity We are to be like the farmer who, after planting his farm say with rice, continuously sees to **it** that the plants have enough water, are fertilised and cleared of weeds and pests so as to be assured of a good harvest.

In like manner, to "be watchful" means not to permit ourselves to "fall asleep." As we await Jesus' return, we are to live up to his teachings and examples. This means we should diligently carry out our responsibilities as individuals, parents, students, breadwinners, etc., and work for the growth and spread of his Kingdom in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

This is the kind of watchfulness that is asked of us during the season of Advent. Towards this end, we are to apply all our gifts, talents and resources. If we do so, then when Jesus returns, he will not find us "sleeping" but occupied with his *Father's business*. Thus, we are ready to welcome him.

A story is told of a woman who dreamed that Jesus would visit her the next day. The following morning, she cleaned the house thoroughly, prepared a sumptuous meal and put on her best clothes. Later, a neighbour came to borrow money since the money her husband sent her from overseas for the family's daily needs had not yet arrived. But she did not entertain her neighbor's plea because her mind was on her expected visitor. Another asked her to watch her sick child while she went out to buy medicine. She also turned down the request. A third came to ask for her help to settle a misunderstanding in the family, but again she refused. Meanwhile, Jesus failed to show up at the woman's house.

When Jesus appeared again in her dream that evening, the woman asked why he failed to keep his promise. Jesus told her he did come three times but was turned away each time.

Obviously, the woman had not yet allowed Jesus to permeate her being and thus carry out his teachings and examples in her daily life. Otherwise, she would have known that Jesus "hides" himself behind the *least of my brethren*. In effect, she was found "asleep." Yet Jesus wants to come into her life as well as ours if we let him. He keeps on knocking at our heart's door and eagerly awaits our "Come in!"

To reiterate, as to "when" Jesus will come again as Judge, no one knows. Meanwhile, we are to remain watchful for his return. And the kind of watchfulness we engage in will determine whether we will be admitted into his Kingdom when he finally returns.

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24: 1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First reading: Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8
O that you would tear the heavens open and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

℟: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. ℟

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. ℟

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. ℟

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation: Psalms 84:8
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37
If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon: Ps 84: 13
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



WHERE: Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere

WHEN: Friday, 4 December

TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 pm followed by a short fellowship

SPEAKER: Andrew Gorkic

THEME: Navigating AI: A Catholic Perspective



Andrew is a Catholic husband, father and AI leader who strives to live his life in that order: son, husband, father, then professional.

His faith has been shaped by years of involvement in the Church, including five years in youth ministry leadership at St John XXIII Parish in Stanhope Gardens, serving as a member of the Diocese of Parramatta's inaugural Diocesan Synod, and leading pilgrims to World Youth Day in Lisbon in 2023.

Professionally, Andrew has spent the past eight years working in technology and artificial intelligence. He currently leads the AI practice at Manuka AI, where the focus is on unlocking human potential through technology rather than replacing people. This philosophy closely aligns with his Catholic belief in the inherent dignity and worth of every human person.

Bringing together his Catholic faith, professional experience and life as a young father, Andrew is passionate about exploring how families can navigate an increasingly digital world while keeping faith, relationships and human dignity at the centre.



Welcome to the First Sunday of Advent. Today we light the candle of hope and begin our journey toward Christmas together.

Let us pray for the...

Wellbeing & Health

Benny Adile
George Asic
Cristina Assuncao
Mario Borsellino
Maree Buttenshaw
Kath Clinton
Margaret Constable
Patrick Coughlan
Den-Toll Family
Younis 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
Gladys Harvey
Aidan Daniel A. Portas
Samantha, Florence, Simon & Arlette
Natalie Coghlan
Michael Powlr

Let us pray that the souls of our dearly beloved rest in peace and may their entire family take courage and hope from the Risen Christ!

PARISH ROSTERS

28/29 November 2026

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	George Davidson	Yolanda & Romeo Urqueza	Harriet S. Zachary C.	Diane O'Shea Michelle Acharya	Francis Mathew Lynette & Dominic Rodrigues	Anton & Anne Fernando	Linda Tsang Grace Coco Sheila Tapiador
Sun 8.00am	Anthony Wong	Michael Clark Ron Della Vedova	Maya R. Tara C.	Barbara Rosario Helen Wong		**Lawn & Garden** Michael Clark	
Sun 10.00am	Lynnette Rodrigues	Sam Markarian Marco Tapiador	Sage G.	Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade			

05/06 December 2026

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Thomas Russo	Leah Garcia Lynnette Rodrigues	Ruby P.	Susan Boulous Kathy Saad	Francis Mathew Bill O'Shea Sheila Tapiador	Jing Tapiador	Maria Greenfield Lily Hon Doreen Tencaramedon Chandelle Culas
Sun 8.00am	Glenys Oxlee	Chris & Maree Twomey	Maya R.	Eric & Lina Flores		**Children's Liturgy** Alison Markarian Tamara Markarian	
Sun 10.00am	Anne Fernando	Gabriel Timoteo Nada Coorey	Ava E. Isabella N.	Sheila Tapiador Evelyn Artiaga			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

St Vincent de Paul Society

The Rydalmere Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the parishioners for their generous support of the current Christmas Appeal.

Your support has contributed a total of **$5,630** over the last 2 weeks!

On behalf of all people in need, we thank you for your generosity! For anyone who wishes to assist, it is not too late to make a contribution.

All our Christmas Cards have been sold and there are only 15 Colombian Calendars left. We hope to sell these out too.

Once again, many THANKS for your support and GOD BLESS!

Ron Della Vedova

(President of the Rydalmere Conference of SVDP)

BISHOP's CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Break the cycle of violence & homelessness for a mother & her child.

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal will be held on the weekend of 5 & 6 December 2026. Your generous support will help Catholic Care provide a safe place for mothers and their children to stay, not only this Christmas, but throughout the year. Your generosity will help rebuild the lives of women and children who experience homelessness, family breakdown, violence or years of instability. Rebuilding takes time, practical help, encouragement and people willing to support them.

Envelopes for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal will be available on 5 & 6 December 2026.

Donations over $2 are tax-deductible and will be receipted.

Your generosity will provide support to Catholic Care's *"Houses to Homes"* program.

THANK YOU in anticipation.

ADVENT HEALING MASS

We are happy to celebrate the start of Advent with a HEALING MASS for our retired parishioners who, in the past, have been the pillars of Holy Name Of Mary Parish.

WHEN: Friday, 4 December 2026

TIME: 11:30 am

Followed by light lunch in the meeting room.

Please contact Lynn Rodrigues on 0439115450 if you have any queries.



Practice for the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass

We welcome you all to come along and join us for rehearsals

at **7:30 pm** on **Monday, 30/11/2026**

in the **Parish.**

For any enquiries about joining / singing, please contact Catherine on 0417 060 021

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 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.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue - Wed - Thu - Fri - Sat 9:15 am

Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Every Wednesday 7:00pm

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

ROSARY at **3:00pm** on the last Saturday of every month at Ermington Shopping Centre (near the Post Office).

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 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:	**Lynette 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