



# PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)

## EASTER SUNDAY - YEAR C - 19 & 20 APRIL 2025



**Parish Priest** – Fr Yacub Barkat

**Assistant Parish Priest** – Fr Norvin Dias



**PARISH OFFICE:**

13 Parker St, Rockdale 2216.

**Phone:** 9567 1558

**Parish website:** [www.mmrc.org.au](http://www.mmrc.org.au)

**Email:** [admin@mmrc.org.au](mailto:admin@mmrc.org.au)

**Office Staff:** Ms Fransiska Widjaja and Mrs Monica Chappell

**Office hours:** Monday to Friday: 9am to 1pm (**please phone** before coming in.)

**Italian Chaplain:** Fr Adriano Pittarello: 8068 1595

**schools:**

**St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale:** 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Rachelle Dopson

**St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe:** 9567 5389 – Principal: Ms Debbie Heckenberg

**St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley:** 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	9.00am	9.00am ( <i>Italian</i> ) 10.30am	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		12.00pm ( <i>First Sunday only Urdu</i> ) 6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i> )	5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday ( <i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 5.30pm</i> ) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday ( <i>Benediction at 8.45am</i> )
<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	4.00 – 4.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
<b>BAPTISMS</b>	10.00am 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Acts 10:34.37-43</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 20:1-9</i> ( <i>Sunday Morning Mass</i> )			

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (*Sunday Morning Mass*)

**This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad**



Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end. *R/*

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. *R/*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. *R/*

**PGAGE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

let us feast with joy in the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

**EASTER HOME BLESSING**

It is a custom for people to want their houses blessed at Easter. Please feel free to take a bottle of newly-blessed Easter Water. **Please only take one bottle** this weekend to ensure there are sufficient for people attending the other Masses. If you wish to have a priest visit to bless your home, please email the Parish Office.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE**

We give special thanks to Fr Manuel Santiago for helping our parishes with the Holy Week Masses and ceremonies. We are most grateful for your presence among us. Happy Easter to you from all of us!



Thank you to all those people, too numerous to name personally, who helped make our celebrations this past week both prayerful and beautiful. The readers, acolytes, extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, servers, those who volunteered to have their feet washed, the musicians and singers, the young people who presented the Stations of the Cross, the flower arrangers, those who prepared and cleaned the sanctuaries and churches, those who prepared the Easter fires and the Parish Office Staff. No doubt some have been missed from this list for which I apologise.

It is important for us to acknowledge the generosity and dedication of these people who volunteer their time and efforts in order that we may enjoy the privilege of gathering in a lovely and peaceful setting to worship and praise our God. Let us not take the efforts of these people for granted. Perhaps their example might inspire you to be more involved in the life of our parishes.

Father Yacub.

**ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE**

"God knows what is best for all of us." 2.7.1891



### EASTER MESSAGE 2025

Easter Blessings to everyone! May this Easter season bring us a fresh start and renewed hope as we embrace a life filled with God's love.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ provides inspiration and hope that even in our darkest times, there is always a reason to believe that God's light and love will always prevail. The triumph of life over death offers us a promise of eternal life, renewal, forgiveness and a future filled with hope.

We all read in the gospel the confusion and hopelessness in Mary Magdalene when she learned about the empty tomb. But the seeming desperation was changed to hopeful glory when she recognized the presence of the Lord. This is the hope of Easter.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a Jubilee Year, a time of spiritual renewal and reconciliation, with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". As pilgrims, he emphasized the journey of faith and the search for meaning and purpose in life, mirroring the Christian journey towards God. Let us embrace our calling as "Pilgrims of Hope."

As we celebrate Easter, let us focus on Jesus' resurrection who represents hope and triumph over death. Easter brings us hope in the midst of many challenges, even in our darkest times, pain and sorrow, there is always light and a brighter future awaiting us.

Finally, let us not forget the Easter story because it is a message of God's unconditional love for us, a love that is "willing to sacrifice everything to bring about reconciliation and offer hope to those who are lost and broken."

Let us be witnesses and "Pilgrims of Hope" who proclaim in our lives that following Christ we can be a source of joy. Alleluia! Happy Easter!

Fr. Yacub Barkat

### PARKING AT ARNCLIFFE NEXT WEEKEND

From this **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April** and over next **Saturday and Sunday**, there will be **NO ONSITE PARKING** at St Francis Xavier's Church for Masses. **The work will possibly take 1-2 weeks to complete** and this is to allow scaffolding to be erected in the laneway behind the church to do necessary repairs to the sanctuary of the church. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. If you know of anyone who may be coming to Mass next weekend, please let them know. You are most welcome to attend Mass at either Bexley or Rockdale.

### EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget that **Easter Offerings** are a vital income for the church. The special envelopes are available in each of our churches this weekend. Please take one home and return it next weekend with your donation. The money from the Easter Offerings is remitted to a central fund caring for the needs of priests and deacons of the Archdiocese who need support. Your ongoing prayerful and practical support of the clergy in the Archdiocese is appreciated.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed during the coming week due to the two Public Holidays and staff on leave. If you need a priest urgently, please call the office number and choose the option for Fr Yacub.

### PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA

Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers, grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH

At the Easter Vigil Mass this Saturday night at St Joseph's, Isabella Russell will be received into the Catholic Church. We congratulate Isabella for taking this important step in her faith journey and thank those who helped Isabella on this journey to Catholicism.

### DIVINE MERCY MASS

**Next Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April**, is the Second Sunday of Easter and the Feast of Divine Mercy. This will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church, Rockdale with an observance of the Holy Hour, Benediction and Reconciliation at 2pm, followed by Mass at 3:15pm. Come and celebrate with us!

### HAPPY EASTER FROM CARITAS AUSTRALIA!

As we celebrate this season of hope and renewal, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion this Lent. As we reflect on the Easter message of love, compassion, and new beginnings, we are reminded of the incredible impact your contributions make. Together, we are building a world where no one is left behind. Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2025 Lenten appeal.

**It's not too late** to support Project Compassion 2025 by scanning the QR code / online: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion/](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion/) or by calling: 1800 024 413.



### PROJECT COMPASSION DONATIONS

Please return your Project Compassion envelopes and boxes as soon as possible. Don't forget to fill in **ALL** the details on the slip/box if you wish to receive a tax deduction.



### PARISH SAFEGUARDING

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney that child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [equiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:equiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We have a number of parishioners who are suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, and we ask that you please keep them all in your prayers.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Dorothy Molachino.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Gayus Donoghue, Pasquale Mazzeo, Patricia Campanella, Giuseppina Tasselli, Giuseppe Gioia, Vera Zihor, Gregory Doyle and Martin Michael.

**We especially remember those for whom Masses have been requested, those in our Memorial Books and all our deceased relatives, friends, parishioners and benefactors. May they all rest in peace, Amen.**