

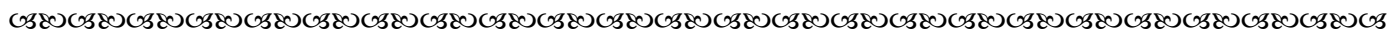
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 18 & 19 FEBRUARY 2023

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

Email: 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 Carolyn Yeats

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
WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	----- 9.00am 5.00pm
WEEKDAY MASSES	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday (<i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm</i>) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (<i>Benediction at 8.45am</i>)
CONFESSIONS	4.00 – 4.30pm 2 nd & 4 th Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1 st & 3 rd Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
BAPTISMS	10.00am 1 st Sunday of the month Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.	11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 st Reading: <i>Lev 19:1-2.17-18</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 3:16-23</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 5:38-48</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 102:1-4.8.10.12-13

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *R/*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. *R/*

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. *R/*

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. *R/*



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

This Wednesday, 22nd February.

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.00am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



ASH WEDNESDAY

PROJECT COMPASSION

Lent begins this week, Ash Wednesday, 22nd February.

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes this weekend to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Banjo and Huxley Nunez-Murray who will be baptised at St Joseph's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special occasion.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!



LENTEN PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of The Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross will begin on **Friday, 3rd March**. There will be Stations of the Cross at 6.00pm at St Francis Xavier's. At 7.00pm there will be Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm at St Joseph's Church followed by Mass at 7.30pm.



CATECHIST SUNDAY

Next Sunday at the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's, we will celebrate Catechist Sunday with our parish Catechists. Parents and students from our State Schools are especially invited to attend. There will be morning tea following the Mass and parents will have the opportunity to meet and chat with their child's Catechist.

Our parish State Schools are desperate for some new catechists or assistants to help out in the schools as several have either retired or are unable to carry on for the time being. If you can help, even for one hour a week, please speak with Fr Yacub or the Catechist Coordinators: Maree Ross (Rockdale/Arncliffe), 0428 103 758 or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 3rd March is the annual World Day of Prayer and this year it will be held in St Joseph's Church as part of the rotation of our local Christian Churches. The service starts at 10:30am and the country theme this year will be Taiwan. This will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. All parishioners are most welcome to attend this ecumenical service. Please gather some friends and bring them along too.

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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2023

All Catholic children currently in Year 3 or above who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the State schools in our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation this year. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening **on Thursday, 2nd March, at 7.00pm** in St Joseph's Parish Hall, entry via Parker St, Rockdale.

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting. If you have a child attending a State School we ask that you look for a letter in their school bags soon.

The children will attend four classes on Sunday mornings **commencing on Sunday, 5th March**. The classes will be held in either the St Gabriel's or St Joseph's Parish Halls. At the first class you are asked to bring a **copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate**. This is only for children Baptised outside our parishes of Bexley, Rockdale and Arncliffe.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Religious Education changes. Faiths confront Attorney General.
- Renovation that's Divine. Sydney conference a big success.
- Archbishop Fisher OP Homily: Education for Life.
- University Chaplaincies are key.
- Love overcomes time. Remarkable nursing home experiment.
- Maronites mark 50 years.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, as Covid is still very much in our local community.**
- **Please do not come to Mass if you are Positive for Covid, unwell or even if you just have a sore throat or a simple cold.**
- When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable more distancing between others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space and distance before joining the queue.

ANNIVERSARIES: Des Worboys, Michael McDermott, John Morley, Nancy Parton, Santo Caruso, Ruby Newton, Amadea Scodeller, Michael & Maria Sakr, Giuseppina & Giuseppe Guarnieri, Giuseppe & Maria Guarnieri and Olive Williams.

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

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"We know God delights in being manifested through the weakness of others." 1871

