

# 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

4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B - 30 & 31 JANUARY 2021

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Priest – Fr Frank Regala



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 calling 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 Zeina Chalich

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

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (Italian) 10.30am 6.00pm (Third Sunday only in Filipino)	----- 9.00am 5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday (Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm) 9.00am Thursday 7.30pm First Friday each month	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (Benediction at 8.45am)
<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>	10.30am 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. All weddings are governed by the <b>4 square metre rule and must be strictly observed.</b> Numbers are limited to 100 attending.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Deut 18:15-20</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>1 Cor 7:32-35</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mk 21:21-28</i>			

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 94:1-2.6-9

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. *R/*

Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we the people  
who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. *R/*

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *R/*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A people in darkness have seen a great light:  
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

**Alleluia!**



## FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

This coming **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February** is also known as Candlemas or the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. The Presentation is a proclamation of Christ — Messiah and Priest, Lord and Saviour. He is the light who came into this world to dispel sin and darkness. For this reason, traditionally at least since the seventh century, candles have been blessed at Mass this day that will be used throughout the year, hence the term "Candlemas".

To celebrate this special feast day, we invite parishioners to attend the 7pm Mass at St Joseph's on Tuesday night and have a candle blessed. Candles must be at least 1" or 2.5cm wide to stand without falling over as they will be placed on a special table. If you have a candle holder it would be a good idea to bring it along too as long as it does not take up too much space. Please be aware that Prayers, Exposition and Benediction will precede the Mass on Tuesday night.

## GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Helen and John McHardy** who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> (Golden) Wedding Anniversary this Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> January at the 5pm Mass at St Francis Xavier's. Helen and John were married on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1971. May God continue to bless you and all your family with health and happiness in the years to come.



**REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.**

## UPDATED RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Church attendance numbers are again limited to a maximum of 100 people, providing there is a four-square metre space around each person or family group. Our three churches are limited for numbers attending and none can hold 100 people under current conditions. If there are too many people attending then those coming late may be asked to attend another Mass.
- In keeping with NSW Health directives, anyone attending a church now must wear a face mask. Children under the age of 12 are exempt from this rule but are encouraged to wear face masks where practicable. NSW Health can impose a \$200 fine on each individual failing to abide by this rule.
- Congregational singing, the sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended.
- 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 go from the nearest seat to the Priest or Acolyte but please wait until there is space to join the queue before standing up.
- The dispensation from the Bishops from attending Mass has been extended.
- ANYONE who enters the church must give their names and contact details before entering the church. These records will be kept for four weeks or use the QR code.
- Only one door will be opened to enable accurate recording of those attending.
- Hands must be sanitised when entering the church.
- Please do not come to the church if you are unwell, even with a simple cold.
- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs in a parish, every person who has registered as an attendee of the parish will be notified of the diagnosis and the date and time the infected person attended the church. No other details will be provided.
- The Parishes will comply with privacy requirements.

## THINKING ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD?

A Seminary Open Day will be held on **Sunday 14 February** at the Good Shepherd Seminary, 52-58 Abbotsford Road, Homebush starting with Morning Prayer at 9am and a public Mass at 10:00am. The day will include prayer, conversations with seminarians and priests, talks with information about the studies required of men training for the priesthood and a guided tour around the Seminary. Brunch will be provided. For registration or more information email: [vocationcentre.org.au](mailto:vocationcentre.org.au) or at the Vocation Centre on 9307 8424 **Please RSVP by Friday 5 February.**

## CATHOLIC HOME CARE SERVICES

Living Life to the Full at Home is CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community. To learn more, call the Home Care Team on 13 18 19 or email [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

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

## A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Blessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities. May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians. *Pray for us!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. *Pray for us!*

## OPEN DAYS AT COOGEE TO HONOUR SERVANT OF GOD, EILEEN O'CONNOR

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor is opening up its home at 35 Dudley Street, Coogee to visitors for monthly open days throughout 2021 to allow Sydneysiders to pray at the tomb of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor and learn more about this 'saint in waiting'. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, numbers will be limited to 12 visitors at any one time. The next open day will be held next **Sunday 7 February** and you can register online at the new Eileen O'Connor website: <https://eileenconnor.com.au/open-days>. May Eileen's great courage and unflinching service to others, despite enduring great personal suffering herself, continue to inspire us today and may she soon be counted amongst the saints in heaven.

## LAST YEARS PALMS

Do you have palms or olive branches from previous Palm Sundays? Over the coming weeks the old palms will be burnt in a special liturgy in the Primary Schools in the lead-up to Lent. Traditionally, the ashes used for Ash Wednesday came from the burning of the previous year's palms. Please consider bringing your old palm to the parish office at 13 Parker St Rockdale **by next Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February**. Please phone the office during listed office hours before coming in just to make sure it is open as the staff occasionally have to leave the office to attend to other matters outside.

## LIVESTREAMED MASSES ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

As COVID-19 restrictions are making it challenging for many parishioners to attend Mass in person each week, the Archdiocese is continuing to publish details online of parishes which are offering live streamed Masses on this webpage: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/>

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Fr Isidore Anantharaj EV and Marylou Laygan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Frank Bendeich, Fr Jim Fowler, Fr Tiziano Martellozzo, Fr Ron Harden, Lona Bastic, Kristopher Deeb, Luigia Dennison, Carmen Cuschieri, Christina Purcell, Denis Hennessy, Edward Donoghue, Mary Gatt and Rafella & Lorenzo Fimoguari.

**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 rest in peace. Amen.**

## ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Keep young as long as you can." 3.5.1874

