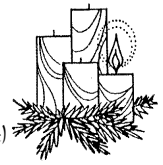


PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and
ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C - 30 NOVEMBER & 1 DECEMBER 2024

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 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 |
|---|--|---|--|
| WEEKEND MASSES | 5.00pm Saturday | 6.30pm Saturday | ----- |
| Saturday Vigil | 9.00am | 9.00am (Italian) 10.30am | 9.00am |
| Sunday Masses | | 12.00pm (First Sunday only Urdu) 6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino) | 5.00pm |
| WEEKDAY MASSES | 9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday | 7.00pm Tuesday (Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm) 9.00am Thursday | 9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (Benediction at 8.45am) |
| 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>Jer 33:14-16</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Thess 3:12-4:2</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 21:25-28, 34-36</i> | | | |

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24:4-5.8-10.14

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

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/*

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/*

His ways are faithfulness and love

for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;

to them he reveals his covenant. *R/*



BLESSING & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

[Sign of the Cross]

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Priest: Lord our God,

we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.

He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;

he is the Saviour of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our

community gathered here before you.

Bless us (+) and our advent wreath (+) as we look to your coming again.

We ask this through Christ, who is the Light of the World.

All: Amen.

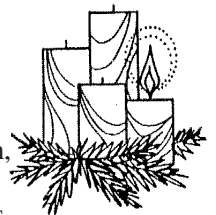
[The first candle is lit]

Priest: Lord Jesus, Light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king:

Be born in our hearts at Christmas, be king of our lives today. Amen.

All: Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

[Opening Prayer]



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,

and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

FAMILY MASS

This Sunday the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's will be a Family Mass. Please welcome the children and families who attend Marist College Kogarah, St Josephs Primary and the local public schools. A sausage sizzle will follow the Mass in the school grounds. All welcome.

HAPPY FEAST DAY ST FRANCIS XAVIERS

A very happy feast day is extended to all our St Francis Xavier's parishioners for their Feast Day this coming Tuesday, 3rd December.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

This Tuesday, 3rd December is the 31st Anniversary of Ordination for Father Yacub. You are welcome to join him for the 7.00pm Mass on Tuesday night at St Joseph's. Please keep him in your prayers.

FATHER NORVIN ON LEAVE

Fr Norvin will be returning to India to visit his father for a couple of weeks. He will return the week before Christmas. We wish him a safe trip and hope he enjoys this special time with his family.

PARISHIONER THANK YOU

Our grateful thanks go to the parishioner who donated the three sets of Advent Candles for our parish churches this year. May God bless you and thank you for your generosity!



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO MRS AQUILINA

At this Sunday's Family Mass, we bid farewell to Mrs Antoinette Aquilina who has been the Family Educator at St Joseph's Primary School for many years. Mrs Aquilina has been very supportive of the parish and encouraged the school families to be involved in parish life. She has been responsible for all the Family Masses, Sacramental Program and liturgies. Our prayers and grateful thanks go with her as she moves to another school next year.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Rockdale (Italian) Friday, 20th December 10am -10.45am

Bexley Saturday 21st December – 8.00am – 8.30am

Arncliffe Saturday 21st December – 4.00pm – 4.30pm

Rockdale Saturday 21st December – 5.30pm – 6pm

MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Tuesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm



"Midnight Mass", Tuesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm
(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am Italian

Rockdale 10.30am

Bexley 5.00pm

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

As promised by Father Yacub last Christmas, there will be Christmas Carols sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held on **Friday, 20th December at 8.00pm**. Bayside Council will be erecting a large Christmas Tree in the mall so please gather your family and friends and come along to support our parishioners and show the real joy of the Christmas Season with fellow local residents. **Everyone is welcome!**



BAPTISM

This Sunday we welcome Benjamin Docking at St Francis Xavier's. We also welcome his family and friends who join him on this special occasion.



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.

COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR AMALGAMATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH, ROCKDALE CITY & ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, BEXLEY

My dear parishioners, after many years of sharing in the blessings of faith and community between St Mary's Mackillop, Rockdale City & St Gabriel, Bexley, we propose that our communities become one parish to help us bring about the mission of Christ in our local area.

I value your contribution greatly, so it is my hope that this survey provides an opportunity for you to offer any input towards our parish's future life and mission. All responses to the survey are confidential.

There will be copies of the survey in our churches during December for any parishioners to fill in with their personal thoughts on our future together as one full parish. If there are not enough copies, we will supply more next week. Please have your surveys back to the parish office by 31st December. You may just like to hand them to Father Yacub or Father Norvin after Mass or put in an envelope marked "Parish Office – Amalgamation Survey and place on one of the collection plates at Mass.

We appreciate you taking time to fill these in for us. Many thanks, Father Yacub

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PLAYGROUP

This coming Friday, 6th December is the last day for the Playgroup at St Francis Xavier's. Families with pre-schoolers are welcome to join them from 9.00 – 10.15am.

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.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind everyone to dress modestly when attending church. Modesty helps create a respectful and reverent atmosphere that honours our shared space for worship. Please avoid clothing that is too short or revealing, such as low-cut or crop tops, shorts, or skirts more suited for the gym or beach.

Additionally, we ask that men please remove their hats before entering the church. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Carmelo Sapuppo, Joseph Brown, Joseph Giovenco, Peter Barlow, Paul Vella, Mary Thomson, Anna Preziosa, Clive Breen, Joyce Fitzgerald, April Cheung-Baker and Angela Natoli.

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

"Will you not help me to be faithful, will you not cheer me on with your kind, good prayers" (26.2.1872)

