

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, especially over the Christmas period 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 22nd February.

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.10am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



WELCOME BACK TO WORK AND SCHOOL!

Welcome back to all those who have managed to get away during the summer holiday period, especially the students and staff of our schools. I hope the beginning of the school year finds everyone refreshed and ready for year of uninterrupted learning. Welcome to new staff and students joining us this year.

ADVANCE NOTICE – 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. This will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Please gather some friends and come along and join in this Ecumenical Service. More information to come.

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are only a few 2023 Calendars remaining for \$10.00 in our Piety Stalls if you have forgotten. This is the last weekend they will be available.

YOUNG CATECHIST PROGRAM: SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) is giving a wonderful opportunity to young adults to obtain a \$6000 subsidy to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from 1-6 August 2023. You need to volunteer as a catechist helping Catholic children in public schools learn more about their faith to qualify for the program. Read more about the program and apply online here: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/ycp/> Applications close on 5 February.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. 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. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

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

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.

BECOME A CATECHIST OR HELPER IN 2023

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. We ask if you would share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2023. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

Our parish State Schools are desperate for some new catechist's 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.

N.B. Catechist Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, 26th February at the 10.30am Mass at St Josephs.

LIMITED STOCK OF SPECIAL VOTIVE CANDLES

Only Arncliffe and Bexley still have these candles available if you wish to purchase one. They are designed for use at home as a tribute to a loved one, or holy devotion. They are on sale now for \$35 in the Piety Stalls.

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

These are located at the doors of each of our Churches. It is requested you give at least one week's notice if you wish the name of a deceased loved one to be mentioned at a particular Mass.

N.B. Please do not give coin donations, notes only.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- On Fire for Love. Christopher West visits Sydney
- Thousands expected. Preparations underway for Cardinal Pell's Funeral
- Cardiologist examines Jesus
- Face of Mystery. Author to unpack Riddles of the Shroud
- Ben Conolly: No faith for wimps
- Philippa Martyr: Aussie faith by the numbers

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Cardinal George Pell.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Frank Bendeich, Lona Bastic, Fr Tiziano Martellozzo, Elena Carrabs, Mary Gatt, Kristopher Deeb, Carmen Cuschieri and Rosa Giardullo.

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

"Have good courage for God is so very good to us all." 6.1.1870.

