

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

(St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe, St Gabriel's, Bexley & St Joseph's, Rockdale)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 24 & 25 JANUARY 2026

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 Thursday: 9am to 1pm (please phone before coming in.)

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

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

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

|                                                                                                                             | ARNCLIFFE                                                                                                                                        | ROCKDALE                                                                                                                                    | BEXLEY                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WEEKEND MASSES</b><br><b>Saturday Vigil</b><br><b>Sunday Masses</b>                                                      | 5.00pm Saturday<br>9.00am                                                                                                                        | 6.30pm Saturday<br>9.00am <i>(Italian)</i> 10.30am<br>12.00pm <i>(First Sunday only Urdu)</i><br>6.00pm <i>(Third Sunday only Filipino)</i> | -----<br>9.00am<br>5.00pm                                                             |
| <b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>                                                                                                       | 9.00am Wednesday<br>9.00am Friday                                                                                                                | 7.00pm Tuesday <i>(Devotions,<br/>Exposition, Benediction<br/>&amp; Rosary from 5.30pm)</i><br>9.00am Thursday                              | 9.00am Monday<br>9.30am Thursday<br>9.00am Saturday<br><i>(Benediction at 8.45am)</i> |
| <b>CONFESSIONS</b>                                                                                                          | 4.00 – 4.30pm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                         | 5.30 – 6.00pm<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                    | 8.00 – 8.40am Saturday                                                                |
| <b>BAPTISMS</b>                                                                                                             | 10.00am<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month<br>Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours. | 11.30am<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month                                                                                              | 10.00am<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month                                        |
| <b>WEDDINGS</b>                                                                                                             | Monday to Saturday by appointment.                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Is 8:23-9:3</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>1 Cor 1:10-13, 17</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 4:12-23</i> |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 26:1.4.13-14**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**



The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? *R/*

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. *R/*

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! *R/*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**



**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL AND WORK!**

Welcome back to all those who have been away during the summer holiday period. We especially welcome back the students and staff of our parish schools. I hope the beginning of the school year finds everyone refreshed and ready for another year of learning. Welcome to any new teaching staff and families in our parish schools.

## NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will now be closed on Fridays from **1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**. The updated office hours will be **Monday to Thursday, 9 am - 1pm**. For urgent pastoral matters or emergencies please phone 9567 1558 and choose "option 3" on the message to speak with Father Yacub. Alternatively, please email the office at [admin@mmrc.org.au](mailto:admin@mmrc.org.au)

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS / ACOLYTES NEEDED TO HELP OUT

The parish is in real need of more assistance to take the Blessed Sacrament to Catholics in local nursing homes. We have recently had a couple of dedicated volunteers 'retire' or are taking a break, and those who are assisting, are being asked to give more of their time. Please contact Maree Ross 0428 103 758 if you can spare an hour or two on a regular basis.

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are still some 2026 Columban Calendars available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. If they have run out and you don't didn't get one, there are a couple in the parish office. They assist the Columban Missionaries in meeting the needs of the poor. I would like to request you to please put a Catholic calendar in your home. ☺

### HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Catholics who have made the proper spiritual and sacramental preparation may come forward in the procession to receive Holy Communion.

To receive the sacred host, please hold your hands open flat and then consume the host in the presence of the priest or communion minister before moving back to your seat.



If you are not Catholic or have not yet received your First Communion, you may receive a blessing from the priest.

An Acolyte or Minister of Holy Communion cannot give you a blessing. To receive a blessing approach the priest in the Communion procession with your arms crossed over your chest.



### CATECHIST SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, is Catechist Sunday. All catechists from our parish are invited to attend the **9.00am Mass at St Francis Xavier's** on this day. A special invitation is extended to families whose children attend our public schools. A morning tea will follow the Mass and all parishioners are welcome to join them. ☺

### MASS AND BLESSING OF THE SICK

Join with others for a special day of prayer and healing at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood on **Sunday, 8 February**. The afternoon will commence with the Rosary at 2:30pm followed by Mass & Blessing of the Sick at 3:00pm. The address of Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is St James Avenue, Earlwood. Please park in the council carpark. The main Celebrant will be Bishop Terry Brady. In case of extreme weather, the Mass will be held in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. **All welcome.**

### 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.

**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.

### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Governor-General affirms faith communities' role after Bondi attack
- Christopher West challenges Catholics to rethink Christianity
- Jan Ruff-O'Herne, our Australian saint of forgiveness?
- Almost 400 million Christians face 'high levels' of persecution: report
- New book on the dangers on AI
- Feature: Are we entering a demographic winter?

### FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2026

**All Catholic baptised children currently in Year 4 or over** who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the Public schools within our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation in Term 1 and their First Holy Communion in Term 2. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening on **Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**, in St Joseph's Hall at 7.00pm **for the parents of the children.**

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting as the Registration Form for the programme will be handed out on the night. There will also be some general information about the First Holy Communion program on the night.

**You are asked to bring a copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate to the meeting.**

There is ample parking in the school grounds off Parker St, Rockdale.

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING

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 [enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:enquiries@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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Dame Marie Bashir, Terry O'Flynn and Umberto Calsapietra.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Frank Bendeich, Ross Hili, Elena Carrabs, Lona Bastic, Aranata Leilua, Giovanni Suppa, Kristopher Deeb and Sarina Campanale.

**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

"In every difficulty apply to St Joseph with confidence and you will never be disappointed." 9.3.1906

