

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 14 & 15 FEBRUARY 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

Email: 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
WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>) 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>)
CONFESIONS	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.		

1st Reading: *Sirach 15:15-20*; 2nd Reading: *1 Cor 2:6-10*; Gospel: *Mt 5:17-37*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. *R/*

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

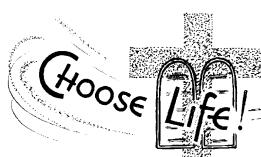
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. *R/*

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. *R/*

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

You have revealed to the little ones

the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISH

Please keep all our parishioners who are suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, in your prayers.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

The Mass schedule for this **Wednesday, 18th February** is:

8.00am – Marist College, Kogarah

9.00am – St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe - **School Mass**

9.00am – St Joseph's Rockdale - **School Mass**

10.30am – St Gabriel's Bexley - **School Mass**



7.00pm – St Joseph's Rockdale

ASH WEDNESDAY

This coming **Wednesday, 18th February**, is **Ash Wednesday** and marks the beginning of Lent. As per the ancient practice of the Church, abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (*All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain from meat.*) On all other Fridays, the common practice of penance is fulfilled by any one of the following:

- Prayer – e.g. Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
- Fasting or Self-denial – e.g. 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 the money to the poor.
- Almsgiving or Helping others – e.g. special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened or some other act of charity, like donating to the Project Compassion Appeal.

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

Commencing from this Friday, 20th February, the Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday's during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church. St Joseph's will have the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2026

All Catholic baptised children currently in Year 4 at school 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, 26th 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.

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes 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 2026 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phone 1800 024 413.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office is now closed on Fridays. **The updated office hours will be Monday to Thursday, 9.00am – 1.00pm.** For urgent pastoral matters or emergencies please phone 9567 1558 and choose "option 3" on the message to speak with Father Yacub if he is available. Alternatively, please email the office at: admin@mmrc.org.au

EUCHARIST28 PRAYER

The Archdiocese has requested that the following prayer is to be recited at Masses from now until the end of the Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Sydney in September 2028. Therefore, we will recite it at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful in place of our regular Prayer for Australia.

EUCHARIST28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive your reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ, Amen

THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU – LENTEN COMPANION 2026

The beautiful Season of Lent is approaching. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes, communities, and homes to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, using the Lenten companion: *This is My Body, given for you*. Lenten Companions will be available this weekend. Alternatively, you can download the Lenten Companion and Leader's Resource at:

gomakedisciples.org.au/resources/

Optional online Workshop: Many people—including those who do not go to Mass—would welcome an opportunity to pray with others; they just need someone to invite them! The Parish Renewal Team will host online workshops for those who want to lead others in prayer using the Lenten Companion. If you would like to invite others to pray with you but need some guidance, ideas, or encouragement, join one of our online workshops. Register for a workshop: <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Country theme for 2026 - Nigeria

The World Day of Prayer on **Friday, 6th March**, is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women aim to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions. The day is celebrated by women and men each year in over 170 countries. The service this year has been prepared by the committee of Nigeria with the theme "*I will give you rest: Come*". The service will start at 10:30am at the Salvation Army, 432 West Botany St, Rockdale followed by light refreshments, finishing at about 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

BAPTISMS

Welcome to Sophie Dib, Hugo Patfield and Skylar Enriquez who will be baptised this weekend at St Gabriel's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on their special day



RECENTLY DECEASED: Christine Sheehy,

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary-Imelda Leslie, Pio Leso, Ooi Lim Eng, Raquel Goncalves,

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

"I wish not to care, if I can please God and do my duty." 28.8.1864

