

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 31 JANUARY & 1 FEBRUARY 2026

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Norvin Dias

PARISH OFFICE: 13 Parker St, Rockdale 2216. Phone: 9567 1558

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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>
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>Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 1:26-31</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 5:1-12</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 145:7-10

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord, who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *R/*

It is the Lord, who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *R/*

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *R/*



CATECHIST SUNDAY

This Sunday, 1st February, is Catechist Sunday. The catechists from our parish are attending the **9.00am Mass at St Francis Xavier's** today. A special welcome to families whose children attend our local public schools. A morning tea will follow the Mass, and all parishioners are welcome to join them. ☺

We thank all those involved in the Catechetical Ministry in our parishes, through being a catechist, an assistant catechist or a prayer partner. These people represent us all as they share the love of Jesus and the importance of faith with the young ones in State Schools. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact the Parish Office.

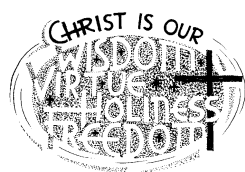
Response to the Prayer for Catechists

Father: Those who stand before us have accepted the responsibility of being Catechists to our Parish children in our public schools. As a Parish Community, let us now pledge our support in commissioning them to go forth as Catechists.

All parishioners: As members of this Parish, we accept your commitment as Catechists, for our Parish children in public schools, and pledge our support to you as we ask God to bless you for this mission.

FUNERAL

A funeral service will be held for the late Emma Drassesch this coming **Friday 6th February** at 10.00am at St Josephs Church at Rockdale. Please keep her family in your prayers



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

BAPTISM



This Sunday we welcome Felix Fung and Sienna Walker who will be baptised at St Francis Xavier's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on their special day.

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.



NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office will now be closed on Fridays from 1st 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

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 already 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. ☺

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

- Catholics honoured in the Australia Day awards
- Remembering Dame Marie Bashir
- Thousands gather for Eucharistic procession in Punchbowl
- Veteran Catholic journalist John Allen loses cancer battle
- Week-long Theology of the Body course inspires
- Comment: The limits of hate speech laws

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, 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.

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. 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.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Emma Drassesch, Peter Dinh & Sr Maria Isabel.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Jim Fowler, Fr Ron Harden, Fr Tiziano Martellozzo, Renato Del Vecchio, Mary Gatt, Carmen Cuschieri and Glenn Wilson.

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

"Give to us what is best". 26.9.1884

