



ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities - One Parish

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



ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A - 16 & 17 MAY 2026

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat **Assistant Parish Priests** – Fr Norvin Dias and Fr Miguel Perez Campos



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	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)	5.00pm
		6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino)	
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>Acts 1:1-11</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Eph 1:17-23</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 28:16-20</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 46:2-3,6-9

**God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High,
we must fear,
great king over all the earth. *R/*

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
Sing praise to our king, sing praise. *R/*

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. *R/*



FATHER YACUB RETURNS THIS WEEKEND

Please welcome Father Yacub home from his month of leave from the parish. We hope he is feeling refreshed and happy to be back at home with us. He will celebrate some of the Sunday Masses.

MAY ROSARY AT ST JOSEPH'S

The month of May is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother and the Rosary will be recited **each evening at 6.00pm** (including weekends) in St Joseph's Church **until Sunday, 31st May**. Please join us.



FAMILY MASS NEXT WEEKEND AT ST JOSEPHS

Next Sunday, 24th May, the 10.30am Mass at St Josephs will be a school Mass with students, families and staff from St Joseph's Primary and Marist College Kogarah attending. We also welcome students and families from our local public schools to join them.

"HEARTS ON FIRE" PENTECOST CELEBRATION

Jesus Light of the World Community invites you to "Hearts on Fire" Pentecost Celebration **next Saturday, 23rd May** from 1.00 – 5.30pm in St Joseph's Hall. The presenter is Ron Maldigri and the day will include rosary, praise and worship, a talk, a prayer of empowerment, and fellowship. Booking Essential, Afternoon Tea Provided. Enquiries: Helen: 0433 455 114 / Esperance: 0407 749 182 / [Email:jlowcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:jlowcommunity@gmail.com)



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

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

CENSUS 'HEAD COUNT' DURING MAY

Over the first four weekends in May, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Centre for Pastoral Research (NCPR) will be counting the number of people who attend Mass. The "national count of attendance" is held every five years. This year marks a significant milestone – 25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001.

When the data is analysed, the 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends in Catholic practice, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of COVID-19, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021. As in 2021, parishes will be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of attendees and to report the number of online views for streamed Masses or other assemblies on Sunday.

Church attendance is perhaps the most basic measure of religious practice. Most dioceses conduct counts of attenders, but not every diocese does it with the same frequency, in the same way, or at the same time. According to the most recent national count, conducted in 2021, about 8.2 per cent of Australia's Catholic population, or 417,000 people, went to church on a typical weekend. Most attended Mass in a parish, but the figure also included people in non-parish centres, such as migrant centres, hospitals, jails and boarding schools. People who were attending an assembly in the absence of a priest are also counted.

The national count is conducted in the same year as the Australian census (to be held on 11 August) so that the information collected can most effectively be used in association with results from the other project. Counting over four Sundays ensures that fortnightly and monthly Masses are not overlooked. This is particularly important for many country towns and migrant communities.

The count will be conducted at all Sunday Masses, including Saturday vigil Masses, but not liturgical services such as prayer group liturgies, funerals, weddings or other Saturday Masses. As this is a visible head count, all children present at the service are included. That includes babes in arms, toddlers, teenagers, adults, celebrants, acolytes, deacons and anyone else present at the service."

The NCPR adds that the count will not disrupt Mass. It can be done, for example, while the collection is being taken up, or as people are arriving or leaving.

HEALING MASS

Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be concelebrating Mass at St. Joseph's, Rockdale at 7.00 p.m. on **Tuesday, 16th June** with Fr Yacub. A Healing Service will follow the Mass. Fr. Justin has established a place in the hearts of many Australians as he shares his ministry of Discernment and Healing from Jesus through the intervention of Our Lady of Guadalupe and emphasises the Love of Jesus and Mary for all. We urge you to bring your family and friends to experience this beautiful occasion.

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.

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 you 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

THANK YOU

Thank you to the parishioners who have notified the parish office about changes to their Planned Giving arrangements. It is greatly appreciated. ☺



FAMILY MASS THIS SUNDAY

Apologies for the short notice but there is a Family Mass at St Francis Xavier's this Sunday at 9.00am. Please welcome the children, their families and school staff. There will be refreshments after Mass.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Pope Leo celebrates first anniversary as pontiff
- 'Messy Families' retreat shares wisdom and tips
- Huge demand on charity 'outpaces' support
- Myanmar's cardinal asks Aussies for help
- A life-changing pilgrimage
- Mass: the greatest prayer

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

The Catholic Bushwalking Club holds at least one walk each weekend, with other activities including abseiling, cross-country skiing, caving, canyoning and cycling. New members always welcome. For more information, go to www.cbensw.org.au or phone Robert on 0478 919 427.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Robert O'Dea, Loretta White and Vera Bela.

ANNIVERSARIES: Joe Borg, Carmelo Palumberi, Santo Damino, Concetta Ara, Joseph Lauricella, Gladys Oakes, Judith Baker and Frank & Carol Sbisa.

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 WACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"I do not know how to describe the feeling but that I was intensely happy and felt nearer to God than I had ever felt before." September 1871

