

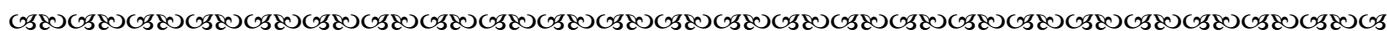
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C - 11 & 12 JANUARY 2025

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

Italian Chaplain: Fr Adriano Pittarello: 8068 1595

SCHOOLS:

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

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

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

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
WEEKEND MASSES	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am <i>(Italian)</i> 10.30am	9.00am
Sunday Masses		12.00pm <i>(First Sunday only Urdu)</i>	5.00pm
		6.00pm <i>(Third Sunday only Filipino)</i>	
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	11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 st Reading: <i>Is 40:1-5, 9-11</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 3:15-16, 21-22</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 103:1-4, 24-25, 27-30

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent. *R/*

Above the rains you build your dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. *R/*

How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. *R/*

All of these look to you

to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up:

you open your hand, they have their fill. *R/*

You take back your spirit, they die,

returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created;

and you renew the face of the earth. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!



COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR AMALGAMATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH, ROCKDALE CITY & ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, BEXLEY

My dear parishioners, after many years of sharing in the blessings of faith and community between St Mary's MacKillop, Rockdale City & St Gabriel, Bexley, it is proposed that our communities become one parish to help us bring about the mission of Christ in our local area.

I value your contribution greatly, so it is my hope that the survey provides an opportunity for you to offer any input towards our parish's future life and mission. All responses to the survey are confidential.

If any parishioners still have a survey, please put on the collection plates no later than next weekend or hand them to Father Yacub or Father Norvin after Mass.

Many thanks, Father Yacub

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

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

A Funeral Mass will be held in St Gabriel's Church, this coming **Tuesday, 14th January** at 10.00am for the late Mario Dal Mas. Please keep his wife Tina and their family in your prayers at this sad time.

BAPTISMS

- Last weekend, we welcomed Keira Dumlao & Ilianna Gabriel who were baptised at St Francis Xaviers.
- This weekend, Aleia Macapinlac and Ravi Rekapalli will be baptised at St Josephs.

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all those who prepared our churches, liturgies and music for the celebration of Christmas in our three churches. I think we can agree that they were beautiful occasions of prayer and praise for our God. It was particularly wonderful with regard to the music and singing. Much work goes on behind the scenes and we should be grateful for the generous efforts of so many who arranged flowers, decorated the churches, read at the Masses or attended as Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Thank you to the children from our parishes who so beautifully re-enacted the first Christmas with the Christmas Gospel at the Vigil Masses. We also thank those who only attend a few times a year; it was wonderful to have you join in with the celebrations.



Special thanks to those who attended the Christmas Carols in King St Mall before Christmas. It was a truly joyful occasion.

Many thanks to those who gave generously to the annual Christmas Appeal. These donations are remitted to a central fund caring for the needs of priests and deacons of the Archdiocese. We have many priests that work in special areas, such as the seminary, chaplaincies, military chaplains and other agencies as well as in parishes that are unable to financially meet the needs of their priests.

Thank you also to those who gave some lovely Christmas gifts to Fr Norvin and me. *Fr Yacub*

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- A new year of Jubilee
- Men devote first Saturday to Our Lady
- History of Holiness for a year of Hope
- Pope appoints Bishop of Bunbury
- Archbishop's Homily: Be tangible signs of hope

PARENTS NIGHT OUT WITH MATT AND CAMERON FRADD

Parents, it's time for a well-deserved night out! Take a break and join us for an insightful evening with Matt & Cameron Fradd as they share their parenting and family life expertise. Whether you come as a couple, alone, or with a group of friends, it's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow parents and gain valuable insights to support your family journey. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with light canapes, drinks, and plenty of opportunities for conversation and a meet-and-greet with the speakers. This will be held on **Wednesday 5th February** at 7 - 9pm at St Christopher's Parish, Holsworthy. The cost is \$20 per person or book a table of 8 friends for \$150. Registration at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CXTXE>

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.

ADDICTION/ALCOHOLISM, THE 12 STEPS AND CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

Are you or a loved one troubled by addiction or alcoholism? The Calix Society is a way to recovery that incorporates 12 Step recovery and Catholic Spirituality. Sydney Unit meets Monthly at St Joseph, Enfield. Mass (5:30pm) and "About Calix" talk (6:30 - 7:30pm). We also meet weekly via zoom and have an annual retreat. Contact: Tim 0401 600 422 or Kevin 0435 668 382 calixsydney@outlook.com or <https://www.calixsociety.org>

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney that 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.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind everyone to dress modestly when attending church. Modesty helps create a respectful and reverent atmosphere that honours our shared space for worship. Please avoid clothing that is too short or revealing, such as low-cut or crop tops, shorts, or skirts more suited for the gym or beach.

Additionally, we ask that men please remove their hats before entering the church. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

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: Mario Dal Mas, Joe Bechara, Denis Hickey, Graeme Lawford, John Willcocks, Giacomo Zanardo, June Calnan, Salvatore Venditti, Julieanne Thompson and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mabel Pasfield, Vincenzo Suppa, Rosalia Mainente, Antonia Festa, Lawrence Mack, Concetta Graziano, Bonaventura Giovenco, Thomas Yeats, John & Catherine Comber and Nunzia Di Mundo.

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

"When we remember all God has done for us, we simply cannot but turn gratefully to St Joseph and thank him for such marks of his watchful care."

11.3.1901

