

# 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 OF LENT - YEAR A - 7 & 8 MARCH 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>	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	9.00am	9.00am (Italian) 10.30am	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		12.00pm (First Sunday only Urdu) 6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino)	5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	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)
<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	4.00 – 4.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
<b>BAPTISMS</b>	10.00am 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Ex 17:3-7</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Rom 5:1-2, 5-8</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 4:5-42</i>			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come; ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. *R/*



Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God  
and we the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. *R/*

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *R/*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
giving me living water that I may never thirst again.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday during Lent at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church and at 6.30pm in St Joseph's followed by Mass at 7.00pm.



### WALZ STREET CLOSURE

Bayside Council is closing Walz Street for Ramadan. Vehicles will not be permitted to park in Walz Street between 4.30pm to 8.30pm and no vehicle will be allowed to enter or exit Walz Street **from 1.00pm next Saturday 14th March** and 2am on Sunday morning.

Parishioners driving to the 6.30pm Mass are to park in the school playground via Railway and Parker Streets. You will need to tell the security guards you are going to the church so they can open the barriers to give you access to Parker St. Please note that the church/school grounds will be **locked up at 7.30pm promptly** following Mass and any cars left in these areas will have to remain until the gates are opened for the Sunday morning 9.00am Mass. **Please do not plan to attend the festival and to park your car in the school grounds after Mass.**

### OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF EUCHARIST28

We tried showing a video last weekend for the official launch of Eucharist28. This leads us to the Eucharistic Congress that will be held in Sydney in September 2028. Unfortunately, the video wasn't able to be shown in some of our churches due to no wi-fi, sound problems or ability to link the video to the church's audiovisual systems. Below is a link to the video if you would like to watch it yourself at home on your computer or phone. It is only four minutes long. [bit.ly/4071tZT](http://bit.ly/4071tZT)

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Monoranjon, a 47-year-old farmer from Bangladesh's vulnerable southwest delta, faces the harsh impacts of climate change including extreme heat, cyclones, water scarcity, and rising salinity. These challenges have threatened his crops, income, and his children's future. But through Caritas Bangladesh's Community Managed Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience Program, Monoranjon learned climate-resilient farming, aquaculture, and disaster planning. He now grows salt-tolerant vegetables, raises livestock, and shares knowledge with his community. He can now send his children to school and protect their future from poverty. But millions like Monoranjon still urgently need help to adapt, survive, and build resilience in the face of a changing climate. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)



### BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome Adrian and Morgan Scanlon who will be baptised at St Joseph's. We also welcome their family and friends who join them on their special day.



### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please keep the children from our parish schools in your prayers as they learn more about God's merciful love as preparation to receive the Sacrament of Penance later this month.



### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION TRAINING SESSIONS

The Liturgy Office will be offering a series of Eucharistic Adoration Training Sessions from March to May. These sessions will explore the theological, liturgical and musical elements of Eucharistic Adoration.

Attendance is compulsory for all acolytes and is strongly recommended for choir members. Jubilate Deo will lead the singing component of each session. Other parishioners with an interest in Eucharistic Adoration are warmly invited to attend.

The final hour of each session will comprise of a Holy Hour, with seminarians from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd serving and Jubilate Deo leading the sung responses. Registration is compulsory at: [bit.ly/45JlSkK](http://bit.ly/45JlSkK)

The nearest venues to our parish are:

- St Benedicts, Broadway – Sat. 14 March, 10am-1pm
- St Thomas Mores, Brighton Le Sands – Sat 16 May, 10am-1pm

### DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD PROCESSION

A Marian Procession led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation will take place on **Sunday 22 March** beginning with 10:30 am Mass in St Mary's Cathedral and followed at 12:00 Noon by the Angelus and a Marian Procession. At 1:30 pm Fervourino will be held in St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/archdiocesan-events/day-of-the-unborn-child/>

### EUCCHARIST28 PRAYER

The Archdiocese has requested that the following prayer is to be recited at Masses 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.

### EUCCHARIST28 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

### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Three years of preparation for Eucharist28 begins at St Mary's Cathedral
- Sydney prays for Ukraine on the fourth anniversary of the war
- Young men are finding faith and returning to Mass
- Catholic bootcamp for marriages
- Women's Lenten retreat is a call to deepen intimacy with Christ
- 'You can't ask that', kicks off Fidelis for 2026

### WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Join us at the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Women's Lenten Retreat - a full day of prayer and reflection led by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia and hosted by the Catholic Women's Network and Sydney Catholic Schools. To be held NEXT Saturday, 14 March in St Mary's Cathedral, from 9 – 4pm. Cost: \$50. To book, visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIBPT>

### ADOREMUS AT ST BENEDICT'S, BROADWAY

You are invited to join us for an evening of adoration, formation, vespers, and fellowship. Every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at St Benedict's Church, Broadway, Chippendale. Everyone is welcome.

### 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:** Margaret Bresnahan and Mary Melville.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Flora Rapisardi, Ernest Camps, Ricardo Damisel, Andres Rodrigues, Giovanni Bottos, Claude Lucas, Dianne Demosthenous, Rosa Zumbo, Judith Baker, Victoria Fuentes and Teodoro Tarongoy.

**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

"You have had a heavy sorrow, but who is it that has not something of the kind to bear?"  
(29.10.1895)

