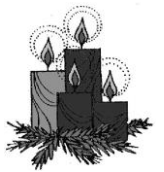




PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B - 23 & 24 DECEMBER 2023

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 Carolyn Yeats

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>)	9.00am
Sunday Masses		10.30am	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 61:1-2, 10-11</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Thess 5:16-24</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 1:6-8, 19-28</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 88:2-5:27:29
For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. *R/*



'With my chosen one I have made a covenant;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' *R/*

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **until 9.00am Thursday, 4th January**. If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email and this will be replied to after 4th January.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, Sunday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm

"Midnight Mass", Sunday night

Rockdale 11.00pm (Carols from 10.30pm)

(N.B. Note the time change!!)



Christmas Day, Monday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am Italian

Rockdale 10.30am

NO 5.00pm Mass at Bexley on Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

As is customary, Christmas Offering envelopes are on the pews of the churches. The money from the Christmas Offerings is 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. our ongoing prayerful and practical support of the clergy in the Archdiocese is very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

Every significant celebration starts with story. We all know that Christmas is the best story ever told. The first story of Christmas more than two thousand years ago still depicts the real meaning and essence of God's unconditional love for us: His Son Jesus Emmanuel." The Word made flesh and dwelt among us. The birth of Jesus is more than just a Christmas story. His birth reveals His love, mercy, grace and compassion. This is the greatest gift of God to mankind.

This year as we celebrate the Christmas Season, let us recall the first message of Christmas brought by the angels, "Peace on earth." Jesus was born in a seemingly chaotic world, He came as Light in the darkness and reason for Hope. Today our world is beset with global crises – war between nations, displaced families and children, racial division and protests, hunger and homelessness, natural and endless disasters. Even if Christmas occurs during these times of distress, may we become a source of Joy, Healing and Hope. May we become a source of Peace in our families, in our community and the world around us.

This Christmas as we reconnect with one another, let us tell and retell the story of Christmas and once more capture the real meaning behind this story which is all about God's love to mankind.

"Christmas is not just about the baby lying in a manger, heralded by the angels and adored by the shepherds. Christmas is about God coming into our world so that He could destroy death forever and welcome all who believe into eternal life – the first Christmas gift."

May the Joy, Hope, Peace and Love at Christmas dwell in your hearts, homes and families forever. Merry Christmas! Fr. Yacub Barkat

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On behalf of myself, Fathers Norvin, Adriano, Asi, Brendan and Sr Marie from the Sisters of St Joseph and the Parish Office Staff, I wish to extend to you and your families every blessing this Christmas and New Year. We are most grateful for the Christmas greetings and well-wishes we have received. May God fill you with Peace and Joy as you gather with Family and friends. *Fr Yacub*

PARISH BULLETIN

There will be no bulletin published next weekend.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANK YOU

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society extend their thanks to all those who were able to contribute to their recent Christmas Appeal. There are many people in our local community who struggle over Christmas so on their behalf I thank you for your generosity. If you have an envelope at home, please put it on the plate next weekend so we are able to send the donations through to the Society. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible but please fill in all the details, including your phone #.

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.

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

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.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind you to dress modestly when attending Church. While our dress code is not as strict as the Vatican's, your cooperation in maintaining a respectful atmosphere during worship is highly appreciated.

Please kindly refrain from wearing attire that is more suitable for the gym or the beach. We kindly ask that you avoid low-cut clothing and belly crop tops. When it comes to pants or skirts, low-cut short pants or skirts are not encouraged. However, slightly above the knee length is still acceptable, provided they are decent and uphold a sense of reverence. This is particularly important if you are an Acolyte or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Men are also asked to remove caps and beanies before entering the church in a sign of respect to the Blessed Sacrament.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in upholding a respectful environment during the church services.

2024 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

There are only a few 2024 Columban Calendars still available. If you want one, they are in the Piety Stalls for \$10.00 each. These do make a lovely Christmas gift.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. You can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or equiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

COVID REMINDER

- Masks are still recommended in churches, as Covid is still very much in our local community.
- Please do not come to Mass if you are Positive for Covid, unwell or even if you just have a sore throat or a simple cold.
- When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable distancing from others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space before joining the queue.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Elvis Vaz, Christina Truant and Tindara Tesoriero.

ANNIVERSARIES: Frederick Higham, Miriam Shields, Mary Nohra, John Bridges, Edward Noble, Harold Seers, Audrey Bran, Michael Rogers, Libretore Natale and Thomas Yeats.

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
"Be faithful and lose not one opportunity of merit that presents itself to you." 26.4.1873

