

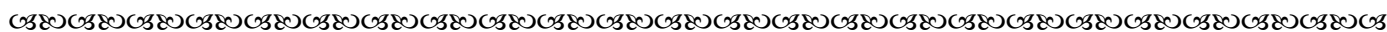
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - YEAR B - 17 & 18 FEBRUARY 2024

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 Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 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>Gen 9:8-15</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Pet 3:18-22</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mk 1:12-15</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 24:4-9

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. *R/*

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. *R/*

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome Matilda Brown and Esme O'Grady who will be baptised at St Gabriel's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special occasion.



PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in our churches or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Commencing from this Friday, 16th February, the Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday's during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church. St Joseph's will have the Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm.

Italian Stations of Cross will be held on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Father Norvin is leading a Lenten Program in St Joseph's Hall this **Thursday evening from 6.00 – 7.00pm**. This will continue until Thursday, 21st March. It's not too late to join in and you are welcome to bring a friend. Numbers are not limited, and all are most welcome.

SISTER SOPHIA BARKAT

Father Yacub's sister, Sr Sophia Barkat, is currently staying with Father in the Presbytery while she visits for a few weeks from Pakistan. Please make her welcome if you see her around our parishes. ☺

LITURGY TRAINING

Father Yacub has asked all current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) to attend the training sessions that the Liturgy Office is providing at St Thomas More Parish Brighton Le Sands on **Thursdays, 29th February and 7th and 14th March** from 6:00pm - 9:00pm. All three sessions must be attended. This is especially important if you did not attend the training here at Rockdale in 2022. If there are any parishioners who would like to become a EMHC, you must do this training. To enrol, please contact the Liturgy Office ASAP at: liturgyassistant@sydneycatholic.org or Ph. 9307 8360

FAMILY EDUCATOR POSITION AT ST FRANCIS XAVIERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

A position within St Francis Xavier's Primary School has become available as a Family Educator. This position is responsible for building and maintaining welcoming school environments whilst ensuring sound, respectful relationships exist between the school, parents/families and the parish. The myriad of quality initiatives, events and activities created and implemented by the Family Educator contribute to vibrant faith communities within our system of Catholic schools.

The Family Educator will primarily work in partnership with a range of stakeholders: the principal, parents, the parish priest, parish staff, the Religious Education Coordinator and a range of church agencies and organisations.

As a significant contributor to the religious leadership of the school within the Catholic school system, the Family Educator is required to be adaptable, creative and able to customise their work to meet the specific needs of the community.

For more information and to apply, please follow this link <https://sydcatholicsschools.nsw.edu.au/positions-vacant/family-educator-arncliffe>

ST GABRIEL'S PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup at St Gabriel's has recommenced but is now held on Wednesdays in the St Gabriel's Parish Hall. This is for parish children who have not yet started school. The group meets from 9.30 – 11.00am every Wednesday during the school terms but not in school holidays. If you would like more information, please come along on Wednesday or contact St Gabriel's School office and leave a message for Rebecca to call you back.

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.

weblink. <https://sydcatholicsschools.nsw.edu.au/positions-vacant/family-educator-arncliffe>

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the annual World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday, 1st March** in St Thomas More Catholic Church, Brighton-le-Sands at 10.30am. The service this year has been prepared by the committee for Palestine with the theme "I beg of you...bear with one another in love".

N.B. *This service was prepared well before the present situation in Palestine.*

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all our parishioners to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Light refreshments will follow the service.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

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 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 and boys 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.

COVID REMINDER

- Please note that Covid is having a local resurgence and masks are still recommended in churches.
- 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: Sr Antoinette Walsh and Robert Whiteley.

ANNIVERSARIES: Amadea Scodeller, Joan Morgan, Nancy Parton, Santo Caruso, Ruby Newton, Michael & Maria Sakr, Maria Nguyen, Maria Mazzaferro and Belle Ireland.

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
"Make no reserves with God." 14.12.1890

