



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

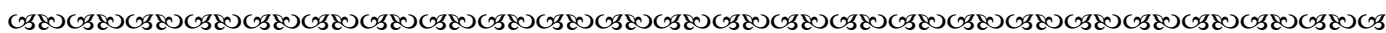
(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C - 10 & 11 MAY 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>) 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	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>Acts 13:14, 43-52</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Rev 7:9, 14-17</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 10:27-30</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 99:1-3.5

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy. *R/*

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

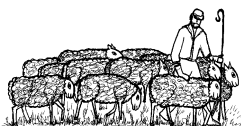
He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people the sheep of his flock. *R/*

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. *R/*



FATHER YACUB ON LEAVE

From this Tuesday, 13th May to 30th May, Father Yacub will be taking some well-earned leave to travel home to Pakistan. Please keep him in your prayers over the coming two weeks and we hope he has a relaxing time away from the busyness of parish life.

MAY ROSARY AT ST JOSEPHS

The month of May is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. There will be Rosary recited **each evening at 6.00pm** until Saturday, 31st May in St Joseph's Church. This includes weekends. Please come along and join with all other parishioners in reciting the Rosary.



BAPTISM

This Sunday at St Joseph's we welcome Zyla Onan who is to be baptised. We also welcome her family and friends joining her on this special occasion.



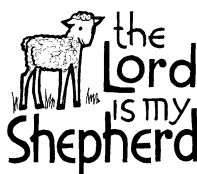
GABBIES SEWING ANGELS

Tickets are available this weekend and the next three weekends for our annual raffle, to support the work of Gabbies. There are four beautiful prizes, two patch-work quilts and two crocheted rugs.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

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.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY

A very Happy Mother's Day is extended to all the mothers, grandmothers, guardians and mother-like figures (such as aunts, sisters and caring friends) of our parish. This day gives us all the opportunity to reflect and give thanks for those women who are mother-like to us. Let us each offer a prayer for these important women in our lives.



THREE COMMUNITIES, ONE PARISH

MERGER OF ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, BEXLEY & ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH, ROCKDALE CITY

As you know a survey was held across both parishes throughout December 2024 to canvas current opinion on the formal merger of the two parishes. The result was that 89% supported the merger, and 86% were in favour of retaining the name of St Mary MacKillop's Parish, Rockdale City. Written support was given to the merge by both St Gabriel's Parish Finance Committee and St Mary MacKillop's Parish Finance Committee.

Subsequently I wrote to the Archbishop, The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, in April formally asking on behalf of St Gabriel's and St Mary MacKillop's parishioners that the canonical merge of the two parishes be considered. The matter was put before the Council of Priests on 29th April 2025. I was subsequently advised on 30th April that the Council had endorsed the merge, and that the Archbishop had given his approval.

The Archdiocese is currently finalising the Decrees for signature by the Archbishop. Once the Decrees have been received, they will be put on display in each church for a period of ten days. After that time, and following final acceptance by both Parishes, St Gabriel's Parish Bexley will be incorporated into St Mary MacKillop's Parish Rockdale City. Naturally the names of the individual churches and schools will not change.

To keep you up to date, you will receive further information via the Bulletin and from the pulpit in the coming weeks.

Fr Yacub Barkat, Parish Priest

ADVANCE NOTICE ☺

We are having a parish dinner on Friday, 8th August!

There will be more information to come soon but you can start organising your parish friends to join you on a table.

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL

Many thanks to those who were able to contribute to the Charitable Works' Fund Appeal held last weekend. Donations are still being received. Please place your offering in either of the collections using the special envelopes. If you would like to receive a tax deduction for your donation, please ensure all the details on the envelope are completed.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Any parishioners, particularly new parishioners, who wish to participate in the Planned Giving Envelope System for the coming New Financial Year 2025-2026, are asked to contact the Parish Office via email: admin@mmrc.org.au and give some details. **There is a 30% Tax Deduction incentive** available if you are a wage earner and lodge a Tax Return at the end of each financial year. This is a positive way of supporting our parishes. Please consider our appeal.

If there are any recently retired parishioners who currently donate through the envelopes but who may want to change to a 'non-tax receipt' category, they are asked to please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible so we can organise the changes before the new financial year commences.

All new enquiries are welcome. ☺

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.

HEALING MASS

Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be celebrating Mass at St. Joseph's, Rockdale at 7.00 p.m. on **Friday, 27th June**. 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.

CENTENARY OF THE CANONISATION OF ST THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

You are invited to celebrate Mass **next Saturday 17 May** at 12 noon, in St Mary's Cathedral, for 100 years since the canonisation of St Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Discalced Carmelite Fathers Gerard Moran and Ransom Rapirap will be among the concelebrants at the simple Mass. A stall will also be available with a limited number of books about St Therese, including her autobiography, Story of a Soul, prayer cards, and rose-scented candles for sale.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Celebrating Mother's Day
- Sydney's new Bishop Tony Percy
- Requiem Mass for Pope Francis
- Deacon Tai Pham on his priestly ordination
- Maximising safety in children's sport
- Hobart Archbishop backs an ecumenical stand on sexual ethics

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.

COVID REMINDER

Covid-19 is still with us in various new forms. It reminds us of a few things: the importance of hygiene; the need to care for one another; and has taught us the value of using face masks even if to stop spreading infections like the common cold or influenza. For more information refer <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/>

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pope Francis & Eduard Vajdik

ANNIVERSARIES: Santo Damino

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

"Let us at any cost be faithful." 26.3.1873

