

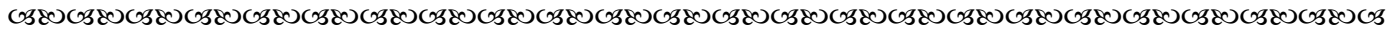
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - YEAR C - 27 & 28 NOVEMBER 2021

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Priest – Fr William Chow



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 calling 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 Zeina Chalich
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.		
<i>1st Reading: Jer 33:14-16; 2nd Reading: Thess 3:12-4:2; Gospel: Lk 21:25-28, 34-36</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24:4-5.8-10.14

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

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/*

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/*

His ways are faithfulness and love
 for those who keep his covenant and will.
 The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
 to them he reveals his covenant. *R/*



BLESSING & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Priest: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the dangers that beset us through our sins; and be a Redeemer to deliver us; Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

[The first candle is lit]

All: O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Saviour of all peoples, come and dwell among us. Amen

[Opening Prayer]



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Lord, show us your mercy and love,
 and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT ST JOSEPH'S

Last year the parish Bangladeshi community decorated St Joseph's with Christmas lights. They would like to add more lights this year and are asking if anyone has any outdoor lights they would like to donate to please see Fr Yacub.

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL

The first CWF Appeal for the 2021-22 financial year will be held **this weekend, 27 & 28 November**. There will be an extra collection plate in our churches for your donations. As we have not had a CWF collection since earlier this year due to Covid-19, we ask that you give as generously as you are able. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible but please make sure you complete the details required on the envelopes provided. The envelopes will be found at the Church doors and not on the seats as we have done in the past to avoid unnecessary handling by parishioners.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- We now have a **two-square metre rule**. **Please do not sit in seats that are not available.**
- Families may sit together, but if people do not belong in the same household, they must observe physical distancing of 1.5 metres.
- Vaccination is recommended for all parishioners.
- **Masks are still compulsory for attending Mass.** Only the priest and reader (when reading) are exempt.
- Congregational singing is not allowed yet unless all are fully vaccinated and masks must be worn.
- The sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended.
- **When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable more distancing between others who are in the line. Please go from the nearest seat to the Priest or Acolyte but please wait until there is space to join the queue before standing up.**
- ANYONE who enters the church must give their names and contact details before entering the church. These records will be kept for four weeks or use the QR code at the doors.
- Only one door will be opened to enable accurate recording of those attending.
- Hands must be sanitised when entering the church.
- Please do not come to the church if you are unwell.
- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs in our parish, every person who has registered as an attendee of the parish will be notified of the diagnosis and the date and time the infected person attended the church. No other details will be provided.
- **Weddings and Funerals** The same density limit (1 person per 2sqm) applies to weddings and funerals **for the fully vaccinated**. If people are not fully vaccinated, there remains an 11-person limit for a wedding ceremony (the couple and celebrant; 2 witnesses; someone to record the service; and 5 guests), and a 10-person limit for funerals (not including the celebrant and others 'required for the conduct' of the funeral service). **The onus rests on the relevant couple or funeral directors** to ensure that these requirements are complied with;

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER AND FR YACUB'S ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

This coming **Friday, 3rd December**, is the Feast of St Francis Xavier and we wish a Happy Feast Day to all our Arncliffe parishioners and to the students and staff of St Francis Xavier's Primary School.

We also wish Fr Yacub a Happy Anniversary for 28 years of Ordination on 3rd December.

NEW BISHOP FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

Last week Pope Francis appointed a new bishop for our Archdiocese. He is Fr Danny Meagher (*pronounced Mar*). Fr Danny has been a parish priest in various areas of Sydney and most recently has been the Director of Vocations and Rector at the Sydney Seminary of the Good Shepherd at Homebush. Fr Danny will be installed as a Bishop at St Mary's Cathedral on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As a parish we congratulate him on his new appointment.

A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary places her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO VISIT AGED CARE HOMES
We are still in great need of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who have some spare time to take Holy Communion to the residents of local aged care facilities. We have lost a few volunteers and really need some more to cover the numbers of Catholics in these homes. If you are willing to have flu and Covid vaccines and Police Checks, we would love to have your help. Please contact the Parish Office and leave your contact details.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATION

Bexley	Saturday, 18th December 8.00 – 9.00am
Arncliffe	Saturday, 18th December 4.00 – 4.45pm
Rockdale	Saturday, 18th December 5.00 – 6.00pm
Rockdale	Tuesday, 21st December 6.00 - 6.30pm

MASSES

Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th December

N.B. No morning Mass at Arncliffe today.

Bexley	5.00pm
Arncliffe	5.00pm
Rockdale	6.30pm

Midnight Mass, Friday night/Saturday morning

Rockdale	12.00am Midnight
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Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th December

Arncliffe	9.00am
Bexley	9.00am
Rockdale	9.00am (Italian)
Rockdale	10.30am
Rockdale	11.30am – Extra Mass this year
Bexley	5.00pm – Extra Mass this year

Boxing Day, Sunday, 26th December

N.B. No Vigil Masses at either Arncliffe or Rockdale for Sunday and NO 5pm Mass at Bexley in the afternoon.

Bexley 9.00am; Arncliffe 9.00am and Rockdale 10.30am.

New Year's Day – Saturday 1st January

Masses as per regular timetable

ST VINCENT DE PAUL LADIES CONFERENCE

The ladies are holding their Christmas Luncheon at Bexley RSL Club on Wednesday, 8th December at Midday. If any parishioners would like to join them please phone Rita on 0458 500 072 to book. All welcome.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Barlow, Mary Thomson, Paul Vella, Anna Preziosa, Joyce Fitzgerald, Clive Breen, Violeta Sollazzo, Filomena Pezzullo, Kevin Clifford and Giovanna Treffiletti.

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 rest in peace.

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"I feel more trust in God than ever." 13.4.1874

