

# 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)

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A - 7 & 8 JANUARY 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](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 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
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> 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
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday ( <i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 5.30pm</i> ) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday ( <i>Benediction at 8.45am</i> )
<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.		
1st Reading: <i>Is 60:1-6</i> ; 2nd Reading: <i>Eph 3:2-3,5-6</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 2:1-12</i>			

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13**

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. *R/*

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R/*

The kings of Tarshish  
and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. *R/*

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. *R/*



**CHRISTMAS THANKS**

I should very much like to thank all those who have prepared our churches, liturgies and music for the celebration of Christmas in our three churches. I'm sure we can all agree that they were beautiful and uplifting occasions of prayer and praise for our God. Attendance was certainly improved over the past two years. It was particularly wonderful with regard to the music and singing. Much work goes on behind the scenes and we should be grateful for the generous efforts of so many who arranged flowers, decorated the churches, read at the Masses or attended as Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Thank you to the children from our parishes who so beautifully re-enacted the first Christmas with the Christmas Gospel at the Vigil Masses. This tradition has been on hold for the past two years due to Covid. Thank you also to those who prepared them for this special Mass. Special thanks also, to the musicians and singers who came together to give us beautiful music and singing at the Midnight Mass. Fr Norvin, Fr Brendan and I, together with the congregations were most grateful. We also thank those who only attend a few times a year; it was wonderful to have you join in with the celebrations.

*Fr Yacub*



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

### CONDOLENCES TO FR YACUB AND HIS FAMILY

As a parish we collectively send our condolences to Father Yacub on the passing of his elder brother Mushtaq who passed away last Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> December. Father's sister, Sr Sophia is also staying with him on a planned visit from Pakistan. The funeral for Mushtaq was held at St Joseph's this past week. Please keep Father Yacub, Sr Sophia and their family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Due to a lack of parishioners willing to commit to the pilgrimage, it has been cancelled. Fr Yacub.

### PONTIFICAL REQUIEM MASS FOR THE LATE POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI.

A Pontifical Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict will be held **this coming Thursday 12 January** at 5.30pm in St Mary's Cathedral. You must be seated by 5.15pm. For those who are unable to attend, the Requiem Mass will be live-streamed on the St Mary's Cathedral YouTube Channel. Please continue to pray for the repose of the soul of the late Holy Father.

### 2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are a few 2023 Calendars remaining for \$10.00 in our Piety Stalls.

### LIMITED STOCK OF SPECIAL VOTIVE CANDLES

There are still some of the special votive candles available in various churches. They are designed for use at home as a tribute to a loved one, or holy devotion. They are on sale now for \$35 in our Piety Stalls. They glow continuously for 300 days, and 2 x Alkaline size D batteries are included with the purchase.

### MASS TO HONOUR EILEEN O'CONNOR

The annual Mass for Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor to mark the anniversary of the death of Eileen O'Connor will be held in St Brigid's Church, Brook St, Coogee **this coming Tuesday 10 January** at 11am with the Principal Celebrant, Emeritus Bishop Terence Brady. Eileen is on the path to becoming Australia's next saint.

### SYNOD OF BISHOPS CONTINENTAL STAGE

The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Download prayer resources, read the document and access the submission portal at:

[www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch](http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch)

### PURPOSE RETREAT 2023

All young adults and youth leaders (18-35) are invited to come along to a new archdiocesan retreat centered on the theme KNOW, LOVE, SERVE. This will be from **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday, 25 January** at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre at 347 Grose Wold Road, Grose Vale. Speakers include: Bishop Richard Umbers, Fr. Ben Saliba, Kristin Barlow, Sr Kathryn Kingsley MGL, Kevin and Helen Wagner, Fr Chris Desousa and Fr Dan McCaughan, The retreat will offer fellowship, social time, free time, food, sacraments, prayer, and more, all at the beautiful Benedict XVI Retreat Centre near Richmond. Places are limited so register today for an incredible experience <https://www.trybooking.com/CDXCV>  
For more information [info@sydneycatholicyouth.org](mailto:info@sydneycatholicyouth.org)

### 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.

### RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, especially over the Christmas period 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 more distancing between others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space and distance before joining the queue.

### SPECIAL CATHOLIC WEEKLY EDITIONS

#### • 8 January edition

This week's edition will include a special 4-page wrap devoted to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

#### • 15 January edition

#### Special commemorative magazine

Next week there will include a special commemorative magazine featuring articles by Archbishop Fisher and Catholic Weekly contributors such as Cardinal George Pell - and others - reflecting on their association with and memories of our beloved pope emeritus and his significance in the life of the modern Church.

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

### 'MADE FOR MORE'

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is proud to host Dr Christopher West and his team for their Australian tour of 'Made for More' events in Sydney and Melbourne. Please join us on **Friday, 20 January** at St Mary's Cathedral College Hall **or on Saturday, 21 January** at All Saints Liverpool Parish Hall. 'Made for More' weaves dynamic presentations with live music, media and sacred art bringing an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. An event not to be missed! For tickets and more information, visit [www.sydneycatholic.org/TOB](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/TOB)

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Pope Benedict XVI, Mushtaq Barkat, Colin Berry and Danielle Yepes.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Collin McKeon, Bonaventura Giovenco, Rita Briscoe-Hough, Fr Kevin Carroll CSsR, Josephine Chand, Concetta Graziano, Vincenzo Puglia and Sylvia Moussa.

**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

"Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life."  
(From the last letter typewritten by Mother Mary herself) 12.1.1909

