

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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C - 15 & 16 MARCH 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 Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>) 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 15:5-12, 17-18</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Phil 3:17-4:1</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 9:28-36</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 26:1.7-9.13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? *R/*

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' *R/*

It is your face, O Lord that I seek;
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. *R/*

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord! *R/*



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



PLEASE DONATE TODAY

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code / online: caritas.org.au/project-compassion / or by calling: 1800 024 413



FAMILY MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, there will be Family Masses in each of our three churches.

- Saturday, 5pm Mass at St Francis Xavier's
- Sunday, 9am Mass at St Gabriel's
- Sunday, 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's.

At these Masses, please welcome the students, families and staff from each of our primary schools. Students and families from our public schools are also welcome. Tea and coffee will follow each Mass and all parishioners are welcome to join them.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



HAPPY ST JOSEPH'S DAY

We wish the Rockdale parishioners and Sr Marie White a Happy Feast Day for this coming Wednesday, 19th. We also remember and pray for the Sisters who taught some of us in our three parish schools in years gone by.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S ROOF REPLACEMENT: YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a result of the severe storm and heavy rain in July 2022, St Francis Xavier's Church Arncliffe, needs to have the roof replaced. As a heritage-listed church, the replacement requirements are guided by Bayside Council. The roof is the first and major part of a series of restoration projects that have been identified by the Parish Finance Committee for the church. Other matters requiring attention are the stained glass windows, internal painting, foliage in the brickwork, internal repairs to the tower etc.

Every contribution, big or small, will make a meaningful difference in helping us cover the \$500,000 cost of the roof replacement. Your support ensures that our church remains a place of worship that continues to serve our community and preserves its place in history.

The amount raised so far is \$2195.00. Thank you!

- To make supporting easier, donations can be made via Tap & Go machines at:
 - **Left side of the altar at Arncliffe Church**
 - **Front foyer at Rockdale Church**, next to the piety stall.
- Bpoint on our website (mmrc.org.au) under Support the Parish – Pay/Donate to Rockdale City Parish
 - Biller Code: Other
 - Purpose of Payment: Arncliffe Restoration Appeal

LENTEN REFLECTION AFTERNOON "Carrying Our Cross Through Lent"

An afternoon of Lenten reflection has been organised for our parish **next Saturday, 22nd March** in St Joseph's hall and church from 12.30 – 5.30pm. There will be talks, Reconciliation adoration and a Healing Mass. The speakers will be Fr Yacub and Fr Norvin. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Please park in the school grounds off Parker St or other nearby streets. **Please do not park in Walz St. for this event as the street will be closed to traffic from 1.00pm for the Ramadan event. Any parked cars will be towed away.** Also, please do not leave your car in the school grounds after 7.15pm as the gates will be closed overnight following the 6.30pm Mass.

WALZ STREET CLOSURE

Bayside Council is closing Walz Street for Ramadan in Bayside. Vehicles will not be permitted to park in Walz Street between 4.30pm to 8.30pm and no vehicle will be allowed to enter or exit Walz Street **from 1.00pm next Saturday 22 March** and 2am on Sunday morning.

Parishioners driving to the 6.30pm Mass are to enter the school playground via Railway and Parker Streets. You will need to tell the security guards you are going to the church so they can open the barriers to give you access to Parker St. Please note that the church/school grounds will be **locked up at 7.30pm promptly** following Mass and any cars left in these areas will have to remain until the gates are opened for the Sunday morning 9.00am Mass. **Please do not plan to attend the festival and to park your car in the school grounds after Mass.**

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.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO BERRIMA SHRINE


As our parish's participation in the Jubilee for the Year of Hope, on **Saturday, 5th April** the parish has organised a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy at Penrose Park, near Berrima. A bus will be organised to take parishioners, but others may wish to follow in their own cars. The address is 120 Hanging Rock Road, Sutton Forest. Cost for the day will be approximately \$50 but will be confirmed. There are clipboards in each church to put your details on if you are interested. You will need to bring your own food, snacks and drinks for the day.

FUNERAL

A Requiem Mass for the late Flora Rizzo, Arncliffe parishioner, will be held at St Gabriel's Bexley, this coming **Thursday, 20th March** at 10.30am. Please keep her family in your prayers at this sad time.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

The Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm to 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 7.00pm in St Joseph's Church. Italian Confessions will be held before and after their Stations of the Cross.

ST THOMAS MORE'S WOMENS GROUP

Ladies of the parish are invited to join a Women's Group at St Thomas More, Brighton le Sands on the 4th Sundays of the month from 11.30am to 1.30pm in their parish hall at 298 Bay St, behind the church. There will be topical and relatable presentations; fellowship and discussions; social events; community outreach; art and craft projects and afternoon tea. If you can please bring a plate of food to share or donate towards the cost that would be appreciated. Further information by phone: 9567 3589 or email: stmwomensgroup@outlook.com

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Flora Rizzo, Peter Asplet, Sharon Harnett, Rebecca Forwood, Beryl Breen, Corazon Carlos and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Pasquale Guerrieri, Mary Haasnoot, Viccie Mabbutt, Filippo Vicino, Louis Ferre, Aurora Sanchez, Bernard Villegas and Mother Alphonsus rsm.

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

"St Joseph's humility was of the silent kind... we must be like him in this." 19.03.1893

