



ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

(St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe, St Gabriel's, Bexley & St Joseph's, Rockdale)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 13 & 14 DECEMBER 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.)

schools: **St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe:** 9567 5389 – Principal: Ms Debbie Heckenberg
St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley: 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins
St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale: 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Rachelle Dopson

	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>Is 35:1-6.10</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>James 5:7-10</i> Gospel: <i>Mt 11:2-11</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *R/*

It is the Lord, who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *R/*

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *R/*



BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome Hunter He and Maya Marcaida at St Joseph's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them today.



HEALING MASS

Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be celebrating Mass on **Tuesday, 16th December** at St. Joseph's, Rockdale at 7.00pm. As this is a Tuesday, the usual Tuesday night prayers, Benediction and Rosary will take place as usual from 5.30pm. An anointing will take place after the Mass. We urge you to bring your family and friends to experience this beautiful occasion.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

Christmas Carols will again be sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held on **Sunday, 21st December from 8.00pm**. Please gather your family and friends and come along to support our parishioners and show the real joy of the Christmas Season with fellow local residents. **Everyone is welcome!**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!



HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAYS

As the school year draws to its close this coming week, Fr Norvin and I wish all the staff, catechists, students and their families of our local Catholic and State schools a very safe and restful holiday. May Christmas and the New Year be a time filled with peace, joy and love. *Fr Yacub*

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2026 Columban Calendars are now available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. They assist the Columban Missionaries in meeting the needs of the poor and make a great Christmas gift.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Bexley Saturday 20th December – 8.00am – 8.45am

Arncliffe Saturday 20th December – 4.00pm – 4.45pm

Rockdale Saturday 20th December – 5.30pm – 6.15pm

MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Wednesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm



“Midnight Mass”, Wednesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm

(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Thursday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 10.30am

Bexley 5.00pm

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS/ACOLYTES NEEDED TO HELP OUT

The parish is in real need of more assistance to take the Blessed Sacrament to Catholics in local nursing homes. We have recently had a couple of dedicated volunteers ‘retire’ or are taking a break, and those who are assisting, are being asked to give more of their time. Please contact Maree Ross 0428 103 758 if you can spare an hour or two on a regular basis.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mark your calendars! Christmas at the Cathedral returns **this coming Wednesday 17th until 25th December**. Join with family and friends at the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, for nine fun-filled nights of market stalls, delicious food, roaming entertainment and live performances. Experience stunning light projections that bring the beloved Christmas song "The Little Drummer Boy" to life, transforming the cathedral into a beautiful spectacle. The event will be on each of the nights from 5:30 – 10:30pm with lights on at 8:30 PM each night in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit <https://christmasatthecathedral.org.au>.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind everyone to dress modestly when attending church. Modesty helps create a respectful and reverent atmosphere that honours our shared space for worship. Please avoid clothing that is too short or revealing, such as low-cut or crop tops, shorts, or skirts more suited for the gym or beach.

Additionally, we ask that men please remove their hats before entering the church. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm Monday, 22nd December until 9.00am Monday, 5th January**. If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email and this will be replied to after 5th January.

There will also be no Parish Bulletins printed on 27/28 December and 3/4 January.

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Feature: Signs of a ‘second spring’ of faith
- WYD cross and icon returns to St Mary’s Cathedral
- Two new priests ordained by Archbishop Fisher OP
- From Holy Spirit Carnes Hill to the stage of The Voice
- Shock NSW voluntary assisted dying report

CAROLS FOR PEACE

“Carols for Peace” is hosted by the University Chaplaincies in association with Artes Christi Orchestra, combined Universities Choir, bagpipes & much more. This will be held on **Friday 19 Dec** from 6.30pm in The Sydney Town Hall. Entry by donation \$10+ supporting Aid to the Church In Need. Bookings Essential www.theword.org.au or <https://www.carolsforpeace.org>

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC EXHIBITIONS

This special exhibition will feature the brand-new International Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis and the Shroud of Turin including a full-sized Replica of the Shroud. This will be held on **ONE DAY ONLY, Saturday 20th December** (11am-2pm) in The Sydney Town Hall. Entry by donation \$5+ supporting Aid to the Church in Need. **Bookings Essential** www.theword.org.au

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

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.

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: Michael McDermott, Carol Barbour, Patrick McBrearty, Sr Pauline Riley OP, Noel Riley, Joan Dwyer, Brid Stynes and Gae Bergin.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Tom Fennell, Elizabeth McBrearty, Graeme Lawford, Michael Lawford, Edith Lawford, Giacomo Zanardo, Tindara Tesoreiro, Armando Exposto, Scholastica Corraya, Rocco Domine, Amparo Bahena, Lorenza Santiago, Valentina Bermudo and Shaun Padua.

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

“God’s presence seems to follow me everywhere and makes everything I do or wish to do a prayer.”
28.3.1870

