

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - YEAR C - 13 & 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Norvin Dias

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**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.)

**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                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WEEKEND MASSES</b><br><b>Saturday Vigil</b><br><b>Sunday Masses</b>                                               | 5.00pm Saturday<br>9.00am                                                                                                                        | 6.30pm Saturday<br>9.00am <i>(Italian)</i> 10.30am<br>12.00pm <i>(First Sunday only Urdu)</i><br>6.00pm <i>(Third Sunday only Filipino)</i> | -----<br>9.00am<br>5.00pm                                                             |
| <b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>                                                                                                | 9.00am Wednesday<br>9.00am Friday                                                                                                                | 7.00pm Tuesday <i>(Devotions,<br/>Exposition, Benediction<br/>&amp; Rosary from 5.30pm)</i><br>9.00am Thursday                              | 9.00am Monday<br>9.30am Thursday<br>9.00am Saturday<br><i>(Benediction at 8.45am)</i> |
| <b>CONFESSIONS</b>                                                                                                   | 4.00 – 4.30pm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                         | 5.30 – 6.00pm<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                    | 8.00 – 8.40am Saturday                                                                |
| <b>BAPTISMS</b>                                                                                                      | 10.00am<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month<br>Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours. | 11.30am<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month                                                                                              | 10.00am<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month                                        |
| <b>WEDDINGS</b>                                                                                                      | Monday to Saturday by appointment.                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Num 21:4-9</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Phil 2:6-11</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 3:13-17</i> |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM - ps. 77:1-2,34-38

**Do not forget the works of the Lord.**

Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. *R/*

When he slew them then they would seek him,  
return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. *R/*

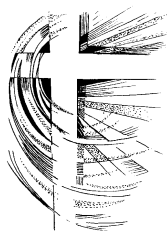
But the words they spoke were mere flattery;  
they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. *R/*

Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. *R/*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.  
**Alleluia!**



### CONFIRMATION 2025

Last Thursday night, the children at St Joseph's were Confirmed by Bishop Terry Brady. This coming week, the children at St Francis Xavier's and St Gabriel's will be Confirmed by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett, Bishop Emeritus of Lismore Diocese. We welcome both Bishops to our parish and congratulate the 123 children from our parish Catholic and public schools who were/will be Confirmed over these two weeks.

We thank those who were involved in making this day special for our children. Thank you to Mrs Monique Cohen, Sacramental Co-ordinator, the Catechists who taught the lessons, Parish Office Staff, Religious Education Co-ordinators, Family Educators and the teaching staff from our parish schools. Thank you to everyone who worked to get these events organised as it was a huge task to set up three separate nights for the Confirmations. Thank you also to those who prepared and decorated our churches and provided music and singing for the Masses.

### PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND APPEAL

Thank you to those who so generously supported the Appeal last weekend for the retired priests of the Sydney Archdiocese. If you still have an envelope, you may place it on one of the collection plates this weekend. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible but **please** make sure you fill in all the details to receive the tax deduction. Just a name can't be accepted for tax deductions.

Receive  
the  
Holy  
Spirit

### FUNERALS THIS WEEK

- Requiem Mass for the late **Pale Malietoa** will be held at St Francis Xavier's this Monday morning at 10.30am.
  - Requiem Mass for the late **Tina Dal Mas** will be held at St Gabriel's at this Monday morning 11.30am.
  - Requiem Mass for the late **Mark Delfino** will be held at St Francis Xavier's this Tuesday morning at 11.00am.
- Please keep their families in your prayers at this sad time.

### SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church.

In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

### ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Each of our churches need people to volunteer to be Acolytes to assist at weekend Masses. You will need to have a Working With Children Check which is obtainable through Service New South Wales website. There is no charge for this for volunteers. If you feel you would be available to assist, please speak with Father Yacub or Father Norvin.

### BE NOT AFRAID: CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

This year's theme is Thorn in the Flesh, Finding Strength in Weakness. What is your thorn in the flesh? What is its root cause? Learn to identify your predominant fault and imperfections, receive grace, and bring them to God for forgiveness, conversion, and healing. The Conference speakers include Archbishop Julian Porteous, Fr Daniel Russo, Fr Duncan Wong FSSP, Robert Falzon, Tomasz Juszczak, Andrew Condoleon, and Fr Ben Saliba as MC. The conference will include Mass, a light breakfast, coffee/tea, an opportunity for confession, a Q&A panel, lunch, fraternity, and an expo. This will be held next **Saturday, 20 September** from 7.30 am – 4.00 pm in St Mary's Cathedral - College Hall. The cost is \$60 or \$220 for a group of 4. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1382525>

### SYDNEY CATHOLIC YOUTH 'FIDELIS' EVENT

We are thrilled to welcome Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT and Fr. John Burns - two beloved voices in the Church who need no introduction! - as they lead us into a profound exploration of how our brokenness can become a doorway to grace. Together, we'll journey into the heart of Catholic theology, reflecting on forgiveness, healing, and salvation and explore how the very wounds we carry can reveal Christ in deeply personal and transformative ways. Come with open hearts and expect to encounter beauty in places you may not have looked before! This will be held on Wednesday, 24 September from 6 – 10pm in the Conference Room, Canterbury Leagues Club. The cost is \$25. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DFAWF>

### 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.

### FACE YOUR GIANTS RETREAT

Jesus Light of the World Communities invites you to "Face Your Giants Retreat". Overwhelmed by life's battles? Discover the victory through Jesus Christ. Featuring speaker Marina George, a devoted Catholic preacher, who loves sharing her deep relationship with God the Father, the love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The retreat will be held on **Saturday, 27 September** from 1:00 – 5:30 pm in St Joseph's Hall, Rockdale (parking entry through Parker St.) Afternoon tea is served, and a booking is essential. Enquiries: Helen: 0433 455 114 or Esperance: 0407 749 182 or email: [jlowcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:jlowcommunity@gmail.com)

### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Camino of St Joseph draws 1,200 men in faith, fellowship
- Joy from Sydney to Rome as Acutis and Frassati are canonised
- Bullying rapid review a good first step, say experts
- September's Walk for Life and rally will promote sanctity of life
- Disciple Diaries faith series wins one of three awards for TCW

### FINDING SOLACE AND SUPPORT WITH HEARTFELT

In times of grief, finding a compassionate and understanding community can make all the difference. Heartfelt is based on Catholic teachings and offers online gatherings, support groups, and events, accessible to anyone navigating their grief journey. For more information, visit <https://heartfeltcommunity>

### 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](mailto: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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Tina Dal Mas, Mark Delfino, Pale Malietoa and Maria Salas.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Lindsley Wholohan, Elvis Vaz, Roberto Catania, Annette Dubois, Patricia Moore, Annemarie Petunis, Rino Bergamo, Anna Pagano, Filippa Altavilla, Albert Paikada, Bozo Soljo, Bernard Villegas, and Salvador Ramirez jr.

**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 has always helped me and I have more than every cause to trust in Him." 10.3.1874

