

# ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 14 & 15 MARCH 2026

**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 Thursday: 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
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> <b>Sunday Masses</b>	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (Italian) 10.30am 12.00pm (First Sunday only Urdu) 6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino)	----- 9.00am 5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday (Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (Benediction at 8.45am)
<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.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Ex 17:3-7</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Rom 5:1-2, 5-8</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 4:5-42</i>			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM ps 22

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. *R/*

He guides me along the right path, he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. *R/*

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. *R/*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. *R/*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**



### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The crisis in Gaza is changing every day, and for this reason we are unable to share a single printed story. Online, we can keep Ahmad's story and updates as current as possible. Through repeated displacements, Ahmad found strength and solace in his work as part of Caritas Jerusalem's Media and Communications team. Please visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion/ahmadstory](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion/ahmadstory) to read his powerful story and learn more about how families are being supported through Caritas Australia. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

### SPECIAL FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

- This **Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March** is the Feast of St Patrick and we wish all our parishioners of Irish descent at very happy St Patrick's Day. 
- This **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March** is the Feast of St Joseph. We wish all the Rockdale parishioners and staff and students in St Joseph's School a very happy Feast Day. We also give thanks to the Sisters of St Joseph who taught in the school and were part of our parish life for many decades. Sister Marie still reads our parish bulletin in her retirement. ☺ We are grateful to them all.



### ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"To you all then, my dear Sisters, I wish you a very happy Feast" (14.3.1892)



## BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome Hugo & Max Krishnan who will be baptised at St Gabriel's and Xavier Holmes at St Joseph's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on their special day.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please keep the children from our parish schools in your prayers as they learn more about God's merciful love as preparation to receive the Sacrament of Penance.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT



Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday during Lent at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church and at 6.30pm in St Joseph's followed by Mass at 7.00pm.

## FAMILY MASS NEXT SUNDAY AT ST GABRIELS

Next Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the 9.00am Mass at St Gabriels will be a school Mass with students, families and staff attending. Please make them welcome.

## DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD PROCESSION

A Marian Procession led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation will take place next **Sunday 22 March** beginning with 10:30 am Mass in St Mary's Cathedral and followed at 12:00 Noon by the Angelus and a Marian Procession. At 1:30 pm Fervourino will be held in St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/archdiocesan-events/day-of-the-unborn-child/>

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE RECONCILIATIONS & MASSES

### **First Rite** (Individual) **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**

8.00am – 8.45am Bexley;  
4.00pm – 4.30pm Arncliffe;  
5.30pm – 6.00pm Rockdale

### **Second Rite** (Communal celebration)

**Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March at Rockdale** - 5.30pm followed by Benediction at 6.30pm and Mass at 7.00pm.

*Please note: Once the Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday, the Sacrament of Penance will not be available, except in an emergency situation.*

### **HOLY THURSDAY** 2<sup>nd</sup> April

7.00pm Arncliffe – Bexley – Rockdale  
(St Joseph's Church will be open after the Mass till Midnight for prayer and adoration)

### **GOOD FRIDAY** 3<sup>rd</sup> April

#### **Stations of the Cross**

10.00am Arncliffe – Bexley – Rockdale

#### **Commemoration of the Lord's Passion**

3.00pm Arncliffe – Bexley – Rockdale

### **HOLY SATURDAY** 4<sup>th</sup> April

5.00pm Bexley 5.00pm Arncliffe  
6.30pm Rockdale

### **EASTER SUNDAY** 5<sup>th</sup> April

9.00am Mass Arncliffe 9.00am Mass Bexley  
9.00am Mass Rockdale (Italian)  
10.30am Mass Rockdale

**N.B. Please note there will be NO 5.00pm Mass at Bexley today.**

## EUCARIST28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ, Amen

## THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Auburn's vibrant community celebrates parish feast
- Bishops' call for peace in Iran war
- Processions are back in 2026
- Damien Parer: Australia's first Oscar
- Sydney Franciscans celebrate 800 years of St Francis

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION TRAINING SESSIONS

The Liturgy Office will be offering a series of Eucharistic Adoration Training Sessions from March to May. These sessions will explore the theological, liturgical and musical elements of Eucharistic Adoration.

Attendance is compulsory for all acolytes and is strongly recommended for choir members. Jubilate Deo will lead the singing component of each session. Other parishioners with an interest in Eucharistic Adoration are warmly invited to attend.

The final hour of each session will comprise of a Holy Hour, with seminarians from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd serving and Jubilate Deo leading the sung responses. Registration is compulsory at: [bit.ly/45JlSkK](http://bit.ly/45JlSkK)  
This will take place at St Thomas Mores, Brighton Le Sands on **Sat 16 May**, 10am-1pm

## 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](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.

## MARIST COLLEGE KOGARAH – YEAR 7, 2028

Applications for Year 7, 2028 close on Friday, 27 March 2026. If you have a son currently in Year 5, 2026 now is the time to apply to enrol. Please visit the College website - <https://mckogarah.syd.catholic.edu.au> - or contact the Enrolment Officer at the College (9587 3211) if you have any questions.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Margaret Bresnahan, Lisa Cram and Conrado Marcelo.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Pasquale Guerrieri, Alice Lavulo, Mary Haasnoot, Viccie Mabbutt, Louis Ferre, Flora Rizzo, Filippo Vicino, Bernard Villegas, Janette Jabbour and Vinka Gagro.

**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.**

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