

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 22 & 23 AUGUST 2026

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priests – Fr Norvin Dias and Fr Miguel Perez Campos

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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 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><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>Is 22:19-23</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Rom 11:33-36</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 16:13-20</i> |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** - ps. 137:1-3.6.8

**Lord, your love is eternal;**

**do not forsake the work of your hands.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. *R/*

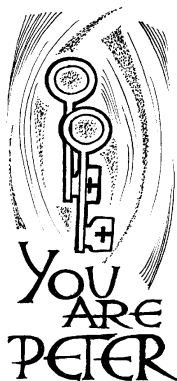
I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I call, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. *R/*

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. *R/*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You are Peter,  
the rock on which I will build my church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.  
**Alleluia!**



## **FAMILY MASS THIS SATURDAY AT ARNCLIFFE**

**This Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August**, the 5.00pm Mass at St Francis Xavier's is a School Mass with students, families and staff from St Francis Xavier's attending. We also welcome students and families from our local public schools who join them.

## **FAMILY MASS NEXT WEEKEND AT BEXLEY**

**Next Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> August**, the 9.00am Mass at St Gabriels will be a School Mass with students, families and staff from St Gabriel's Primary School attending. We also welcome any students and families from our local public schools who may join them.

## **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES & RECEIPTS**

These are now available from the Parish Office if you have not picked yours up. Office hours are Monday to Thursday 9am to 1pm but please call the office before coming in, on 9567 1558.

## **PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE #112**

Can the Arncliffe parishioner who has the packet of Planned Giving Envelopes #112 for this financial year, please contact the parish office by email: [admin@mmrc.org.au](mailto:admin@mmrc.org.au) We need some further information from you.

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

### PLEASE SUPPORT "MARY MACKILLOP TODAY"

For some years now, Tien Te is one of our parishioners has been raising funds to support **Mary MacKillop Today** by running City to Surf and other distance races. **Mary MacKillop Today** is an organisation dedicated to standing with those who are poor and marginalised. Their mission is to empower individuals and communities through education, self-determination, and practical life-skills development. Inspired by Saint Mary MacKillop's legacy, "Never see a need without doing something about it,"

Tien is committed to doing her part to support the Sisters of St Joseph and their works and we invite parishioners to join her as she runs in the 2026 Sydney Marathon (42km) on Sunday, 30 August, not by running with her but to please consider supporting the cause by donating through here: <https://sm26.grassrootz.com/mary-mackillop-today/tien-te> or via this QR Code. It only takes a minute, and any contribution, large or small will make a meaningful difference in helping Mary MacKillop Today continue transforming lives. Donations are also tax-deductible. Thank you sincerely for your generosity.



### SPECIAL MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Each of the churches have special Mass Offering envelopes for your use. Please use these when you request a Mass Offering for a deceased relative or friend, special intentions, thanksgiving and those who are sick. You are requested to place them at least a week before you wish to have a Mass celebrated. Only names for Recently Deceased or Death Anniversaries will be published in the bulletin.

### FIDELIS YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING

A Fidelis evening will be held on **Wednesday, 26 August** at St Declan's Catholic Church, 92 Penshurst Street, Penshurst. Fidelis is the Archdiocesan monthly gathering for young adults, providing an opportunity to come together for prayer, formation, fellowship and community. We're especially excited to welcome our speaker for this month, newly ordained Fr Stephen Howard, who will be speaking on "Why Beauty Matters." The evening will include: Adoration: from 5:30pm; Mass: 6:30pm-7:15pm; Food and social time: 7:00pm-8:00pm; Talk and open Q&A: 8:00pm-9:00pm.

### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

A 12-day journey from Melbourne on commences on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October and ends in Sydney on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> October and travels through the life and times of Mary MacKillop, while offering a unique perspective on her story, faith and legacy. Planned by the Sisters of St Joseph. Travel arrangements for the pilgrimage are managed by Harvest Journeys Book now to reserve a place at: <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/mm2602sj/>

### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Archbishop Fisher challenges ABC over VAD
- Sydney looks to Mary on the feast of her Assumption
- Catholic Schools chief fronts ICAC
- The enduring appeal of Simone Weil
- Clergy and laity learn together at Arête
- The faith behind a footballing rise

### EUCHARIST 28 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

### GRACE & TRUTH

You are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on **Friday, 4 September** for an evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship. This event is open to men and women of all ages. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and a talk by Professor Hayden Ramsay and Father James Baxter, OP. The event will run from 5-8:30 PM, starting in the St Mary Cathedral Crypt and moving to the Cathedral Hall.

The evening schedule is:

5:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration with Vespers and Benediction (Cathedral Crypt)

6:00pm: Light supper (Cathedral Hall)

6:30pm: What are you looking for? (Prof. Hayden Ramsay) short break

7:15pm: Who are you looking for? (Fr. James Baxter, OP)

8:00 - 8:20pm: Q&A/Panel discussion

To register to attend: <https://www.trybooking.com/DOIVM>

**The fee for the evening is \$20.** For more information, contact the Dominican Sisters at [sydney@op-tn.org](mailto:sydney@op-tn.org).

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING

If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, or if you are worried about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please know that you are not alone and that help is available. The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office is available to listen, support you, and provide guidance about reporting options. You can contact the Safeguarding Office on 9390 5800 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also wish to speak with your Parish Priest, who can offer pastoral care and assist you in taking the next step. The Archdiocese takes all safeguarding concerns seriously and is required to report criminal matters to police. If there is an emergency or someone is in immediate danger, please contact NSW Police on 000.

### RECENTLY DECEASED: Concettina Meola.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Isabel Dos Santos, Noelene Adams, Giuseppina Di Loreto, Jose Guevara Erazo, Tina Lombardo, Carmela Disibio, Josiane Stajdohar, Loat Dinh, Hen Hoang and Man Dinh,

**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 what you can with the means at your disposal and leave all the rest calmly to God." 7.8.1888

