

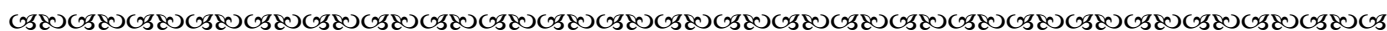
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C - 22 & 23 FEBRUARY 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>1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 15:45-49</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 6:27-38</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 102:1-4.10.12-13

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *R/*



It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. *R/*

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. *R/*

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

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.

- 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.
- Point on our website (mmrc.org.au) under Support the Parish – Pay/Donate to Rockdale City Parish
 - Bill Code: Other
 - Purpose of Payment: Arncliffe Restoration Appeal

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2025

All Catholic baptised children currently in Year 4 or over who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the Public schools within our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation in Term 1 and then their First Holy Communion in Term 2. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening **this coming Thursday, 27th February**, in St Joseph's Hall at 7.00pm **for the parents of the children.**

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting as the Registration Form for the programme will be handed out on the night. There will also be some general information about the First Holy Communion program on the night.

You are asked to bring a copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate to the meeting.

There is ample parking in the school grounds off Parker St, Rockdale.

CATECHIST SUNDAY

Catechist Sunday is usually celebrated on the 1st Sunday in February but this year we are holding it a few weeks later due to the later start of the school year. Welcome to our Catechists at the 10.30am Mass at St Josephs today.

RITE OF COMMITMENT AND COMMISSIONING

Priest: In this year, 2025 may each of us reflect upon our baptismal calling. We are called by our loving God to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to those whom we encounter. In doing so, we help make Christ's love a lived reality in our world. Some members of our parish community have accepted the invitation to do this in a special way as Catechists to our Parish children, half of whom are enrolled in public schools.

Commentator: Let those who are to be commissioned by our Parish as Catechists to serve in our local Public Schools come forward.

(Commentator calls the name of each Catechist who comes forward and remains standing).

Priest: Let us all join in prayer that God will bless these Catechists. By carefully undertaking the task that has been entrusted to them, may they teach the Good News and help young people to respond to the love that God has for each of them.

(Pause for silent prayer).

Priest: As Catechists, do you promise to help bring the Word of God to the children you teach through your prayer, teaching and example?

Catechists: I accept the responsibility of being a Catechist in the name of Jesus Christ. **Priest:** Those who stand before us have accepted the responsibility of being Catechists to our Parish children in our public schools. As a Parish community, let us now pledge our support in commissioning them to go forth as Catechists:

ALL: As members of this Parish, we accept your commitment as Catechists for our Parish children in public schools and pledge our support to you as we ask God to bless you for this mission.

Priest: May God bless you, our Catechists, with wisdom, strength and joy. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

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.

BAYSIDE ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

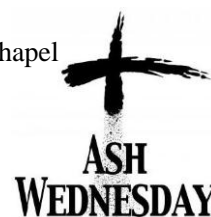
This coming Friday, 28th February, all parishioners are invited to attend St Joseph's Rockdale to join with the Bayside Christian Alliance in a joint prayer service. This includes all local denominations in the Bayside area. Please be here by at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Gather some family and friends and join the service. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards. All welcome!

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 5th March.

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.00am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - OPEN DAYS

Our three primary schools and two feeder high schools, Marist College Kogarah and Bethany College, Hurstville, will be celebrating **Catholic Schools Week** by holding 'Open Days'. Parishioners who have children eligible to start Kindergarten in 2026 or high school in 2027 are most welcome to visit. **Enrolment packages for the schools will be available on these days.**

- ✓ **St Gabriel's Bexley** (9502 1932)
Tuesday 25 February, 9.30 – 11.00am.
- ✓ **St Joseph's Rockdale** (9599 2541)
Tuesday, 4th March 9.30am - 11.00am and 3.30 - 4.30pm.
- ✓ **St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe** (9567 5389)
Tuesday 4 March, 5.00 – 6.30 pm
Thursday 6 March, 5.00 – 6.30 pm
- ✓ **Bethany College Hurstville** (8566 0711) Enrolling Year 7, 2027 on Tuesday 4th March 3.30pm – 6.30p.m.
- ✓ **Marist College Kogarah** (9587 3211) Enrolling Year 7, 2027 on Wednesday 12 March, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

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: Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Paul Chappell, Cesare Tasselli, Colleen Euston, Giorgio Festa, John Morley, Ellen Russell, Umberto Cicchiello, Antonio Meola, Giuseppe Valenti, Nancy Parton, Margaret Goodwin, Santo Caruso, Jose & Maria Silva, Ablan & Neha Makari, Maria Mazzaferro and Giuseppi Guarnieri.

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

"Let us all have courage." 14.10.1871

