

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 3 & 4 OCTOBER 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                                                 | 11.30am<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month                                                                                              | 10.00am<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month                                        |
|                                                                                                                    | Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours. |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |
| <b>WEDDINGS</b>                                                                                                    | Monday to Saturday by appointment.                                                             |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Is 5:1-7</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Phil 4:6-9</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 21:33-43</i> |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                       |

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM – ps 79:9.12-16.19-20**

**The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. *R/*



Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. *R/*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. *R/*

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. *R/*



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
**Alleluia!**

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL**

The annual appeal for Catholic mission will be held **next weekend, 10 and 11 October** with a **third collection after Holy Communion** at all Masses. There are envelopes on the pews, and we ask that you take one home and return it next weekend. If you require a tax-deduction, please tick the box and fill in **ALL** the required information, **especially the amount** you are giving. If you wish to know more, please contact Catholic Mission 1800 257 296 or [catholicmission.org.au/mission](http://catholicmission.org.au/mission).

**HEALING MASS**

Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be concelebrating Mass at St. Joseph's, Rockdale at 7.00 p.m. on **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October** with Fr Yacub. A Healing Service will follow the Mass. Fr. Justin has established a place in the hearts of many Australians as he shares his ministry of Discernment and Healing from Jesus through the intervention of Our Lady of Guadalupe and emphasises the Love of Jesus and Mary for all. We urge you to bring your family and friends to experience this beautiful occasion.

**ROSARY IN OCTOBER**



The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady and the Rosary. There will be Rosary recited **each weekday evening at 6.00pm** and at **5.00pm on Saturday and Sunday evenings** until 31<sup>st</sup> October in St Joseph's Church.

## FUNERAL

A Requiem Mass for the late Francesca Battaglia will be held this coming **Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October** at 11am in St Francis Xavier's Church. Rosary will be recited at 10.30am.

## EUCHARIST28 UPDATE

### Share Your Faith at the Walk with Christ



The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ('Eucharist28') will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives. It will be a celebration of

faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be an important moment of Eucharistic renewal for the Church in Australia and beyond. The journey to Eucharist28 has begun!

This November, we have an opportunity to step out in faith toward 2028 by joining the annual Walk With Christ Eucharistic procession.

Last month, thousands of men took to the streets of Sydney for the Men's St Joseph Camino. Through walking and praying, they gave public witness to their faith in the heart of our city.

**On Saturday, November 22**, we all have an opportunity to be part of this public witness. We have an opportunity to Walk with Christ.

Families and parishioners of all ages are invited to join the Eucharistic procession from Martin Place to St Mary's Cathedral, publicly witnessing to our faith and devotion to Christ in the Eucharist. Christ calls us to share our faith with those in our lives and in our city. The Walk With Christ is how we can answer that call, joining an inspiring public witness of faith.

Join your parish and community for Walk With Christ and take this step on the journey to Eucharist28.

### ANNUAL MASS AND BLESSING OF THE SICK

The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes would like to extend an invitation for the parishioners to come and join in the Celebration of the Mass & Blessing of the Sick **next Sunday 11th October**. This will be at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, rear of St James Avenue Earlwood. Proceedings will commence with the recitation of the Rosary at 2.30pm & followed by the Mass & Blessing of the Sick at 3pm. The principal celebrant will be Roberto Castillo with a choir from The Good Shepherd Seminary. Parking is in the nearby council carpark, entry via Joy Lane. **All welcome.**

### "COURAGE" MUSICAL

A Story of Bravery, Destiny, and Courage under Fire. Step into the world of a legend - the original knight in shining armour! Watch as St George faces his greatest trial: a fearsome dragon, an Empire in peril, and the courage to stand firm when all hope seems lost. Come and join us for an evening of romance, of adventure, of satire; as we discover the true story behind the legend of George and the Dragon. The musical will be held at St Peter's Parish Surry Hills (1880 Parish Hall), 235 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills this coming **Friday 9 October** at 7:00pm

**Saturday 10 October** at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

**Sunday 11 October** at 2:00pm

Bookings via this link: [www.trybooking.com/DOUBL](http://www.trybooking.com/DOUBL)

## 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

## ARCHBISHOP FISHER OPPOSES PUBLIC FUNDING FOR DIVINE PLAYHOUSE

Archbishop Fisher has called on the NSW Government to withdraw public funding from Divine Playhouse organisers after the controversial arts venture announced three events at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia. The open letter to NSW Arts Minister John Graham argues that the Unholy/Divine program appropriates and denigrates Catholic beliefs, symbols and rituals. Promotional material for the October events refers to "processions," "hymns," "adoration" and "confessions." Divine Playhouse previously operated from a deconsecrated former church in Kent Street before its lease was terminated in July following protests by Christian groups. It received a reported \$100,000 grant from Create NSW. "They're basically ridiculing Catholic sacraments and sacred practices," he said in a video message. "I think they're deliberately trying to provoke Catholics and other Christians by this behaviour. "It's extraordinary to me that this attack on religion is actually being funded by the government, by the state government, through an arts grant." The letter acknowledges the importance of artistic freedom and says it does not seek to prevent artists from expressing controversial views. However, it asks whether public money should support the "appropriation, sexualisation, ridicule or deliberate degradation" of the sacred beliefs and rituals of any religious community. Please read the full article here. <https://bit.ly/4e34EsM>.

Archbishop Fisher would appreciate support for his letter via this: [sydneycatholic.org/dpp](http://sydneycatholic.org/dpp) or the QR code.



### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- France welcomes Pope Leo
- Cardinal Bychok speaks candidly
- Merryll's catechist calling inspires
- Devotion shines at Sydney Uni campus
- Aussies witness Fulton Sheen's beatification
- Ambassadors gear up for Eucharist28

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mia Lay, Anna Palumberi, Gerado Amoroso and Francesca Battaglia.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Dorothy Molachino, Rudy Wikarsa, Trish Coleman, Patrick McBrearty, Remo Di Matteo, Salvatore Catalano, Elia Karim, Maria Carnabuci, Maria Dung Le, Thi Dung Nguyen, Mary Caruana and Norma Buhagiar.

**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

"Quietly leave all to God." (16.8.1870)

