



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)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C - 14 & 15 DECEMBER 2024

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	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am	9.00am
Sunday Masses		12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>)	5.00pm
		6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	
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	11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 st Reading: <i>Zeph 3:14-18</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Phil 4:4-7</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 3:10-18</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isaiah 12:2-6

**Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
He became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. *R/*



Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,
declare the greatness of his name. *R/*

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

CATHOLIC WEEKLY APOLOGY

The Catholic Weekly apologise for the non-delivery of the papers for the past two week. They are working on a new delivery solution.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Rockdale (Italian) Friday, 20th December 10am -10.45am
Bexley Saturday 21st December – 8.00am – 8.30am
Arncliffe Saturday 21st December – 4.00pm – 4.30pm
Rockdale Saturday 21st December – 5.30pm – 6pm

MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Tuesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm
Arncliffe 5.00pm
Rockdale 6.30pm



"Midnight Mass", Tuesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm
(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am
Bexley 9.00am
Rockdale 9.00am Italian
Rockdale 10.30am
Bexley 5.00pm

GABBIES SEWING ANGELS

Dear parishioners, there will be a sale of (half price) goods left over from the Lions Club market day **this Sunday, 15th December** after the 9.00am Mass in St Gabriel's parish hall. Please pop in to the hall, you may find something of interest there.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

- A Requiem Mass for the late Natalina Sansone will be held this coming **Tuesday, 17th December** in St Francis Xavier Church at 11:00am.
- A Requiem Mass for the late Denis Hickey will be held this coming **Thursday 19th December** in St Gabriel's Church at 11:00am.

Please keep both families in your prayers at this time.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Bring your family to St Mary's Cathedral one evening up to Christmas Day and enjoy the lights of Christmas on the front façade of the Cathedral. Visiting choirs will sing Carols from 7:30pm and the light show will run continuously from 8.30pm to midnight every evening.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

As promised by Father Yacub last Christmas, there will be Christmas Carols sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held **NEXT FRIDAY, 20th December at 8.00pm**. Bayside Council have installed a large Christmas Tree in the mall so please gather your family and friends and come along to support our parishioners and show the real joy of the Christmas Season with fellow local residents. **Everyone is welcome!**



COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR AMALGAMATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH, ROCKDALE CITY & ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, BEXLEY

My dear parishioners, after many years of sharing in the blessings of faith and community between St Mary's MacKillop, Rockdale City & St Gabriel, Bexley, it is proposed that our communities become one parish to help us bring about the mission of Christ in our local area.

I value your contribution greatly, so it is my hope that this survey provides an opportunity for you to offer any input towards our parish's future life and mission. All responses to the survey are confidential.

There will be copies of the survey in our churches during December for any parishioners to fill in with their personal thoughts on our future together as one full parish. If there are not enough copies, we will supply more next week. Please have your surveys back to the parish office by 31st December. You may just like to hand them to Father Yacub or Father Norvin after Mass or put in an envelope marked "Parish Office – Amalgamation Survey and place on one of the collection plates at Mass.

We appreciate you taking time to fill these in for us. Many thanks, Father Yacub

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASSES

- All children are invited to participate in the Gospel dramatisation at the **St Joseph Mass at 6.30 pm** on Christmas Eve, December 24. Please register your child at: <https://forms.gle/4nniMEqGSK2271Sm8> by **this Wednesday 18 December**. All children who wish to have a part must attend the practice on Saturday, December 21 at 4.00pm in St Joseph's Church.
- All children are invited to participate in the Gospel dramatisation at the **St Gabriel's Mass at 5.00pm** on Christmas Eve, December 24. Please register your child at: <https://forms.gle/wLjGryGbN8sfZGkj9> All children who wish to have a speaking part must attend the practice on Sunday, December 22 at 9:45am.

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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm Friday 20th December until 9.00am 6th January**. If anyone needs a priest urgently, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If you wish to send an email, this will be replied to on 6th January.

THANK YOU FROM ACN

Dear Father Yacub. We want to offer our thanks to the parishes of St Mary MacKillop & St Gabriel's for welcoming us recently. It was wonderful to be present with the community at the weekend of Masses, meet people, and of course speak about the work and mission of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). We would encourage anyone who might have struck by our work in support of the suffering Church to visit www.aidtochurch.org. We also have an online store at www.thatcatholicshop.com. Thank you and God bless you all.

Aid to the Church in Need AU/NZ.

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 equiries@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.

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.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind everyone to dress modestly when attending church. Modesty helps create a respectful and reverent atmosphere that honours our shared space for worship. Please avoid clothing that is too short or revealing, such as low-cut or crop tops, shorts, or skirts more suited for the gym or beach.

Additionally, we ask that men please remove their hats before entering the church. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Denis Hickey, Natalina Sansone, Baby Malakai De Leon and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Tom Fennell, Elizabeth McBrearty, Tindara Tesoreiro, Armando Exposto, Scholastica Corraya, Rocco Domine, Amparo Bahena, Jabbour & Jennifer Azizi and Shaun Padua.

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
"May God be praised for all." (16.3.1870)

