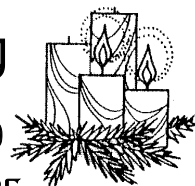


ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 6 & 7 DECEMBER 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.)

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
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>Is 11:1-10</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Rom 15:4-9</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 3:1-12</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17

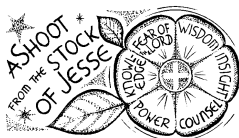
**Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. *R/*

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R/*

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. *R/*

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. *R/*



HAPPY FEAST DAY ST FRANCIS XAVIERS

A belated happy feast day is extended to all our St Francis Xavier's parishioners for their Feast Day last Wednesday. Apologies for it being omitted from the last bulletin.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Last Wednesday, 3rd December Father Yacub celebrated the 32nd Anniversary of his Ordination. Congratulations Father from all your parishioners.

HEALING MASS

Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be celebrating Mass on **Tuesday, 16th December** at St. Joseph's, Rockdale at 7.00pm. As this is a Tuesday, the usual Tuesday night prayers, Benediction and Rosary will take place as usual from 5.30pm. An anointing will take place after the Mass. We urge you to bring your family and friends to experience this beautiful occasion.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

Christmas Carols will again be sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held on **Sunday, 21st December from 8.00pm**. 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!**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God
Alleluia!

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Bexley Saturday 20th December – 8.00am – 8.45am

Arncliffe Saturday 20th December – 4.00pm – 4.45pm

Rockdale Saturday 20th December – 5.30pm – 6.15pm

MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Wednesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm



“Midnight Mass”, Wednesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm

(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Thursday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 10.30am

Bexley 5.00pm

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mark your calendars! Christmas at the Cathedral returns **17th until 25th December**. Join with family and friends at the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, for nine fulfilled nights of market stalls, delicious food, roaming entertainment and live performances. Experience stunning light projections that bring the beloved Christmas song "The Little Drummer Boy" to life, transforming the cathedral into a beautiful spectacle. The event will be on each of the nights from 5:30 – 10:30pm with lights on at 8:30 PM each night in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit

<https://christmasatthecathedral.org.au>.

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.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Each of our churches need people to volunteer to be Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to assist at weekend Masses. You will need to have a Working With Children Check which is obtainable through Service New South Wales website. There is no charge for this for volunteers. If you feel you would be available to assist, please speak with Father Yacub or Father Norvin.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2026 Columban Calendars are now available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. They assist the Columban Missionaries in meeting the needs of the poor and make a great Christmas gift.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- NSW report reveals loneliness epidemic
- Pope Leo's personal message to young Aussies ACYF
- Parishes and charities prepare to spread Christmas cheer
- First papal trip to Turkey and Lebanon
- Our Lady of Guadalupe doco will 'bring the miracle' to Australians

CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

Join others this coming **Monday, 8th December** at 7:30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Earlwood (Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes) for a beautiful torchlight procession as we honour Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The evening begins at the church. The Recital of the Rosary will take place with a candlelit walk to the grotto, where we will conclude in prayer. Candles will be available at the church doors. All welcome to bring your family and friends to share in this special night of faith and community.

CAROLS FOR PEACE

"Carols for Peace" is hosted by the University Chaplaincies in association with Artes Christi Orchestra, combined Universities Choir, bagpipes & much more. This will be held on **Friday 19 Dec** from 6.30pm in The Sydney Town Hall. Entry by donation \$10+ supporting Aid to the Church In Need. Bookings Essential www.theword.org.au or <http://www.carolsforpeace.org>

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC EXHIBITIONS

This special exhibition will feature the brand-new International Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis and the Shroud of Turin including a full-sized Replica of the Shroud. This will be held on **ONE DAY ONLY, Saturday 20th December** (11am-2pm) in The Sydney Town Hall. Entry by donation \$5+ supporting Aid to the Church in Need. **Bookings Essential** www.theword.org.au

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. 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael McDermott, Roberta Prior and Carol Barbour.

ANNIVERSARIES: Denis Hickey, Natalina Sansone, Edmond Leslie, Claude Gilsenan, Doris Falzon,

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

"How good is God to us all." (31.08.1869)

