

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)

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - 5 & 6 MARCH 2022

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat



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 calling in.)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Adriano Pittarello: 8068 1595

SCHOOLS: **St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale:** 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Carolyn Yeats
St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe: 9567 5389 – Acting 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 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>Deut 26:4-10</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Rom 10:8-13</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 4:1-13</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 90:1-2,10-15

Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' *R/*

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell.

For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. *R/*

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. *R/*

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name.

When he calls, I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Anatercia 12, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia-supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports. Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Brooklyn Amaro who will be baptised at St Francis Xavier's on Sunday. We also welcome her family and friends who join her on this special occasion.



RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Masks are still recommended in **churches**.
- **When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable more distancing between others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space to join the queue before standing up.**
- Please do not come to the church if you are unwell, even if you do not think you have Covid and just a sore throat or a simple cold which is highly indicative of the Omicron variation.

LENTEN PENANCE

In this season of Lent, we seek to experience the mercy of God the Father, and to practice it in our daily lives. But first we must experience our need for mercy, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above all, and to love our fellow men and women as ourselves. This is why the Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the merciful love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent.

In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance. Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call “the social dimension of sin”. The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore, during Lent and on every Friday throughout the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence; in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of The Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2022

All Catholic children currently in Year 3 or above who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the State schools in our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation this year. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening **this coming Thursday, 10th March, via ZOOM at 7.00pm for the parents or guardians of the children.**

A parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting. The program and ZOOM information will be given to each of our parish schools beforehand but if you have a child attending a State School we ask that you email the parish office admin@mmrc.org.au (please do not phone) and we will email the program and ZOOM information to you directly. Unfortunately, we do not know at this time when the Catechist Classes will recommence in the State Schools for 2022.

The children will attend four classes on Sunday mornings **commencing on Sunday, 13th March**. At the first class you are asked to bring a **copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate**. This is only for children Baptised outside our twinned parishes of Bexley, Rockdale and Arncliffe.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held in both St Joseph's Church and St Francis Xavier's Church each Friday at 7.00pm during Lent commencing **this coming Friday 11th March**.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS OPEN DAYS

If parishioners wish to enrol their child in one of the following parish schools, please attend an Open Afternoon to get enrolment packs and find out about the school.

- **St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe are holding their Open Afternoon this coming Tuesday 8 March from 5:00 - 6:30pm.**
- Marist College Kogarah will hold an Open Afternoon on **Wednesday, 16 March** from 3.00 - 6.00pm.
- St Gabriel's Bexley will have an Open Afternoon on **Tuesday 22 March** from 3.30 - 4.30pm, bookings are essential and to contact the school (9502 1932) to book in.
- St Joseph's Rockdale will have their Open Afternoon on **Wednesday, 23 March** from 3.30 – 5.0pm.

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Morley and Umberto Cicchiello.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Parkinson, Giovanni Bottos, Patricia Thompson, Ricardo Damisel, Andres Rodrigues, Rosa Zumbo, Dianne Demosthenous, William Halliday, Patrick & Kate Donoghue and Ma Victoria Fuentes.

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 rest in peace.

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

“Does God ever allow anyone that trusts in Him to be confounded?” 1876

