

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)

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 14 & 15 JANUARY 2023

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 Carolyn Yeats

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 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 49:3.5-6</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 1:1- 3</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 1:29-34</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 39:2,4,7-10
Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.



I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. *R/*

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. *R/*

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. *R/*

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know, O Lord. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!



The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, especially over the Christmas period as Covid is still very much in our local community.**
- **Please do not come to Mass if you are Positive for Covid, unwell or even if you just have a sore throat or a simple cold.**
- 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 and distance before joining the queue.

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are a few 2023 Calendars remaining for \$10.00 in our Piety Stalls.

LIMITED STOCK OF SPECIAL VOTIVE CANDLES

There are still some of the special votive candles available in various churches. They are designed for use at home as a tribute to a loved one, or holy devotion. They are on sale now for \$35 in our Piety Stalls. They glow continuously for 300 days, and 2 x "D" Alkaline batteries are included with the purchase.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Due to a lack of parishioners available to commit to the pilgrimage, it has been cancelled. Fr Yacub.

REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.

CATHOLICS MAINTAINING TOTAL ABSTINENCE USING THE 12-STEPS

Why is Christmas time sometimes called the “silly season”? If you or a friend have a problem with addiction, you can investigate the Calix Society whose members have been working 12-steps of Alcoholics Anonymous since 1947, because the “god as you understand him” of the 12-steps is insufficient. The Calix Society is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program. We welcome anyone concerned with the illness of alcoholism or addiction who wish to join with us in prayer for: total abstinence, spiritual development, and sanctification of the whole personality. The silly season, or the Holy Season? We are not party poopers or wowsers, we enjoy sobriety. Check <https://www.calixsociety.org/> or provide your number to calixsydney@outlook.com for an obligation free and confidential phone call.

SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSE OF WELCOME

The House of Welcome works with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide critical casework, housing, employment, food bank and emergency living assistance. During COVID-19 the demand for financial assistance has risen. HoW has increased the Emergency Living Package program by 216% to respond to the amplified levels of distress and hardship amongst their clients. In the last few months House of Welcome has delivered emergency assistance and been able to support clients to maintain their tenancies and assisted those who have come to the centre homeless. There are a number of ways that you can help such as donating to the Emergency Relief Package or donate staple food items to the House of Welcome foodbank Contact them for a list of goods they need. Phone 9727 9290 or email office@houseofwelcome.com.au Address: 197 The Trongate, Granville. Website: stfrancis.org.au

SPECIAL CATHOLIC WEEKLY EDITION

This week there will include another special commemorative magazine featuring articles by Archbishop Fisher and Catholic Weekly contributors such as Cardinal George Pell - and others - reflecting on their association with and memories of our beloved pope emeritus Benedict XVI and his significance in the life of the modern Church.

POSITIONS VACANT – CATHOLIC JOBS ONLINE

- Parish Secretary – St Catherine Labouré Parish, Gymea <https://catholicjobsonline.com.au/job/st-catherine-laboure-catholic-parish-gymea-nsw-full-time-parish-secretary-gymea-nsw/>
- Supporter Services and Database Coordinator – Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney <https://catholicjobsonline.com.au/job/supporter-services-and-database-coordinator-catholic-archdiocese-of-sydney/>
- Fundraising and Marketing Manager – Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney <https://catholicjobsonline.com.au/job/fundraising-and-marketing-manager-catholic-archdiocese-of-sydney/>

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.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES; MAKE A DIFFERENCE OVERSEAS.

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more. Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home. Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via www.palms.org.au or by calling 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.



Palms Australia

‘MADE FOR MORE’

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is proud to host Dr Christopher West and his team for their Australian tour of ‘Made for More’ events in Sydney and Melbourne. Please join us on **Friday, 20 January** at St Mary’s Cathedral College Hall or on **Saturday, 21 January** at All Saints Liverpool Parish Hall. ‘Made for More’ weaves dynamic presentations with live music, media and sacred art bringing an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. An event not to be missed! For tickets and more information, visit www.sydneycatholic.org/TOB

SYNOD OF BISHOPS CONTINENTAL STAGE

The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Download prayer resources, read the document and access the submission portal at: www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

RECENTLY DECEASED: Cardinal George Pell, Antonia Festa, Mushtaq Barkat and George Ling.

ANNIVERSARIES: Margaret Thorpe, Nada Huber, Eleonore Shalhoub, Veda Hardy and Santa Campanale.

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 me humbly place myself in the presence of my God, of my God who created me, my God who redeemed me, my God who sanctified me.”
Retreat notes 1877.

