

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 LENT - YEAR C - 22 & 23 MARCH 2025

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Norvin Dias

Decorative separator line

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>) 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	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.		

1st Reading: *Ex 3:1-8, 13-15*; 2nd Reading: *1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12*; Gospel: *Lk 13:1-9*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 102:1-4, 6-8, 11

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *R/*



It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. *R/*

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. *R/*

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. *R/*

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



PLEASE DONATE TODAY

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code / online: caritas.org.au/project-compassion / or by calling: 1800 024 413



FAMILY MASSES THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, there will be Family Masses in each of our three churches.

- Saturday, 5pm Mass at St Francis Xavier's
- Sunday, 9am Mass at St Gabriel's with morning tea following Mass
- Sunday, 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's with morning tea following the Mass

Please welcome the students, families and staff from each of our primary schools and students and families from our public schools. All parishioners are welcome to join them after Mass.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO BERRIMA SHRINE

As our parish's participation in the Jubilee for the Year of Hope, on **Saturday, 5th April** the parish has organised a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy at Penrose Park, near Berrima. A bus will be organised to take parishioners, but others may wish to follow in their own cars. The address is 120 Hanging Rock Road, Sutton Forest. Cost for the day will be approximately \$50 but will be confirmed when we know many would like to join us.

Please register as soon as possible! There are clipboards in each church to put your details on if you are interested. You will need to bring your own food, snacks and drinks for the day as there are no shops there.

FUNERAL

A Requiem Mass for the late Peter Asplet, will be held at St Gabriel's Bexley, this coming **Tuesday, 25th March** at 10.30am. Please keep his family in your prayers at this sad time.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S ROOF REPLACEMENT: YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a result of the severe storm and heavy rain in July 2022, St Francis Xavier's Church Arncliffe, needs to have the roof replaced. As a heritage-listed church, the replacement requirements are guided by Bayside Council. The roof is the first and major part of a series of restoration projects that have been identified by the Parish Finance Committee for the church. Other matters requiring attention are the stained-glass windows, internal painting, foliage in the brickwork, internal repairs to the tower etc.

Every contribution, big or small, will make a meaningful difference in helping us cover the \$500,000 cost of the roof replacement. Your support ensures that our church remains a place of worship that continues to serve our community and preserves its place in history.

The amount raised so far is \$2195.00. Thank you!

- To make supporting easier, donations can be made via Tap & Go machines at:
 - **Left side of the altar at Arncliffe Church**
 - **Front foyer at Rockdale Church**, next to the piety stall.
- Bpoint on our website (mmrc.org.au) under Support the Parish – Pay/Donate to Rockdale City Parish
 - Biller Code: Other
 - Purpose of Payment: Arncliffe Restoration Appeal

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

The Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm to St Francis Xavier's Church. St Joseph's will have the Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm.

Italian Stations of Cross will be held on Wednesdays at 7.00pm in St Joseph's Church. Italian Confessions will be held before and after their Stations of the Cross.



CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

The Catholic Bushwalking Club holds at least one walk each weekend, with other activities including abseiling, cross-country skiing, caving, canyoning and cycling. New members always welcome. For more information, go to www.cbcnsw.org.au or phone Robert on 0478 919 427.

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.

ST THOMAS MORE'S WOMENS GROUP

Ladies of the parish are invited to join a Women's Group at St Thomas More, Brighton le Sands on the 4th Sundays of the month from 11.30am to 1.30pm in their parish hall at 298 Bay St, behind the church. There will be topical and relatable presentations; fellowship and discussions; social events; community outreach; art and craft projects and afternoon tea. If you can please bring a plate of food to share or donate towards the cost that would be appreciated. Further information by phone: 9567 3589 or email: stmwomensgroup@outlook.com

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Sydney turns green for St Patrick's Day
- St Joseph inspires devotion from Moorebank to Mulgoa
- See our special schools edition The Collegian
- Launch of Emmaus women's accompaniment

CATHOLICCARE SERVICES HOME CARE

CatholicCare Sydney's Home Care services are available to older Australians to ensure they can continue enjoying life independently with comfort and confidence. Our services cover a range of offerings, from helping you keep up to date with your chores to helping you maintain your health and well-being. We can support you or your loved ones in maximising your independence and ensuring you're at the centre of decision-making with your care. To learn more, please call 13 18 19 or visit catholiccare.org.

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.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Peter Asplet, Flora Rizzo, Sharon Harnett, Rebecca Forwood & Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: William Burns, Clementina Zanardo, Diego Festa, Francesco Savo, Grace Di Matteo, Giovanni Santoro, Tamara Jordanoski, Patrick Prior, Nevill Abel, Jason Puac, Emilia & Jose Costa, Abdulla Yousaf Elhage, Gioconda Cofonella, Margaret Graham, Pasquale Guerrieri and Concetta Maugeri.

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.

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

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

“Our good God sees the heart.” 11.10.1871

