



### 30 YEARS ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Greetings everyone. Thank you for your wonderful presence to this significant and memorable occasion on my ordination anniversary to the priesthood. Five years ago, I celebrated my silver jubilee. How quickly time flies... now I am celebrating my 30 years of priesthood. A priest of Christ, a priest to His people.

Three decades is a long time. If I come to think about it, those 30 years bring back many memories of my pastoral ministries. I have served (Sialkot Cantt, Mariamabad, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura, Narowal, Kasur Youhanabad Lahore, St. Anthony Lahore. Enfield and Rockdale City Australia) In all those assignments, I felt the presence of God's grace and I received more than I gave. Those years were not smooth sailing, rather challenging. If ever I reached this journey, it is God's faithfulness to me and my constant decision to choose Him every day in my life no matter what happens to me. This is my personal "synodality" with Christ. Throughout my life, He walks with me through all the seasons in my life.

During my silver jubilee I mentioned the theme of my ordination. Allow me to say it again... "We hold this treasure in pots of earthenware so that the immensity of the power is God's and not our own". . . I am an earthen vessel, made of clay, wonderfully designed by God, moulded, created, shaped by those people who love me . . . those I worked with in my ministry, my collaborators, friends, my parents, family, teachers, reactors, bishop, archbishops, cardinal. I am what I am now because of God's loving design for me. I am made of clay, not metal. But I hold a treasure, a very important treasure that cannot be taken away from me **PRIESTHOOD**. Here I am, after 30 years, I still hold the treasures in this earthen vessel – a sure of God's never-ending love for me.

At this point, my heart speaks with gratitude to God most of all and to all of you for these countless blessings. Please pray for me too that I may continue to be a worthy servant of God and His people.

You are all treasures in my life, and you hold a memory in my heart. Thank you. Fr Yacub

### REFLECTION EVENING

On **Friday, December 15** we will be hosting a Reflection Evening "*Christ with us*" in St Joseph's Church from 6.30 – 7.30pm with Father Emmanuel Asi. Father Asi is the Executive Secretary of the Bible Commission, Pakistan and a Biblical Theologian. If you have any enquiries, please see Father Yacub, or phone him on 0426 715 463.

### INVITATION FROM GABBIES SEWING ANGELS

*Gabbies Sewing Angels* wish to extend an invitation to all parishioners to attend a morning tea at 10.00am **this coming Thursday, 14th December** in the Parish Hall at Bexley, when the NSW Premier Mr Chris Minns will be visiting the group. ☺

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. You can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:enquiries@sydneycatholic.org). The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

#### RECONCILIATIONS

##### Rockdale (Italian/English)

Wednesday, 20th December 10-10.45am

Bexley Saturday 23rd December – 8.00am

Arncliffe Saturday 23rd December – 4.00pm

Rockdale Saturday 23rd December – 5.30pm

#### MASSES

##### Christmas Eve, Sunday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm

##### "Midnight Mass", Sunday night

Rockdale 11.00pm (Carols from 10.30pm)

(N.B. Note the time change!!)

##### Christmas Day, Monday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am Italian

Rockdale 10.30am

**NO 5.00pm Mass at Bexley on Christmas Day**

### 2024 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

There are only a few 2024 Columban Calendars still available. If you want one, they are in the Piety Stalls for \$10.00 each. These do make a lovely Christmas gift.

### COVID REMINDER

- Masks are still recommended in churches, 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.
- When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable distancing from others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space before joining the queue.

### 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:** Christina Truant, Carmello Sapuppo and Joseph Brown.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Elizabeth McBrearty, Doris Falzon, Edmond Leslie, Armando Exposto, Scholastica Corraya, Claude Gilseman, Rocco Domine, Amparo Bahena and Edith Scott.

**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

"Do not, for the sake of defending one or two, shrink from speaking the plain, open truth."

(21.11.1871)

