# parishes of ST Gabriel's, Bexley and ST Mary Mackillop's, Rockoale City

(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arnoliffe)

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B - 9 & 10 DECEMBER 2023

Parish Priest - Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priest – Fr Norvin Dias

DARISTO OFFICE: 13 Parker St, Rockdale 2216. Phone: 9567 1558

Parish website: <a href="www.mmrc.org.au">www.mmrc.org.au</a> Email: <a href="mailto:admin@mmrc.org.au">admin@mmrc.org.au</a>

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 (Italian) 10.30am 6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino)	9.00am 5.00pm
WEEKDAY MASSES	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday (Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (Benediction at 8.45am)
CONFESSIONS	4.00 – 4.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
BAPTISMS	10.00am 1st Sunday of the month Please phone the Parish Office to	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month .558 during office hours.
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Is</i> 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Pet 3:8-14; Gospel: Mk 1:1-8			

RESPONSORIAL PSALCO - Ps. 84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**/

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. R

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.  $R_{\checkmark}$ 



# GOSPEL ACCLACDATION Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!** 

### **BAPTISMS**

This weekend we welcome Abigail & Alexander Bernardo at St Joseph's. We also welcome their family and friends who join them on this special occasion.



# FR YACUB'S 30<sup>TH</sup> JUBLIEE MASS

This Sunday at the 10.30am Mass, the parish join Father Yacub in celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. Also joining Father Yacub and Father Norvin will be Father Asi and Father Arnold, visiting from Pakistan to celebrate with us all. This is a wonderful occasion for all to come together. Please make welcome the children, families and staff from St Joseph's Primary School and Marist College Kogarah who will assist at Mass with the readings and other special duties. A light luncheon will follow in the school grounds. **All welcome.** 

#### **FUNERAL THIS WEEK**

Mass will be celebrated **this Monday**, 11<sup>th</sup> **December** at 11am in St Francis Xavier's for the late Carmello Sapuppo. Please keep his wife Mary and family in your prayers at this sad time.

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is currently conducting its annual Christmas Appeal to bring some cheer to those in need. Envelopes may be found on the pews in our churches. **Next weekend 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> December** there will be a third collection at Mass for this appeal. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible but please fill in all the details, including a phone #.

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

#### 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, Sheikhupura, 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 <a href="mailto:equivore: equiries@sydneycatholic.org">equiries@sydneycatholic.org</a>. 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 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 Gilsenan, 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 COARY COACHILLOP'S QUOTE

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

(21.11.1871)

