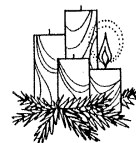
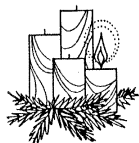


ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

(St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe, St Gabriel's, Bexley & St Joseph's, Rockdale)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 29 & 30 NOVEMBER 2025



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.)

SCHOOLS: St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe: 9567 5389 – Principal: Ms Debbie Heckenberg

St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley: 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins

St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale: 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Rachelle Dopson

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am <i>(Italian)</i> 10.30am 12.00pm <i>(First Sunday only Urdu)</i> 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.		
1st Reading: <i>Is 2:1-5</i> ; 2nd Reading: <i>Rom 13:11-14</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 24:37-44</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing within your gates,

O Jerusalem. *R/*

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.

There were set the thrones of judgement

of the house of David. *R/*

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' *R/*

For love of my brethren and friends I say:

'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask for your good. *R/*



BLESSING & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Priest: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come,
that by your protection we may be rescued
from the dangers that beset us through our sins;
and be a Redeemer to deliver us;
Who lives and reigns with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, world without end.
Amen.

[The first candle is lit]

All: O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation,
Saviour of all peoples, come and dwell among us.
Amen

[Opening Prayer]

FATHER NORVIN ON LEAVE

Father Norvin will return from his leave for next weekend's Masses. ☺

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Savannah Gomes and Araliya Brown at St Joseph's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them in celebration.



FUNERAL

A Requiem Mass will be held for the late Roberta Prior in St Gabriel's Church, this coming **Tuesday, 2nd December** at 10.30am. Please keep her family in your prayers.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!



ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Never lose courage under your sufferings." (01.09.1873)



LAST SISTER OF ST JOSEPH IN OUR PARISH

Two weeks ago, Father Yacub received a letter from the Regional Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph to inform us that the last Sister has left our Parish. She was one of the last to move into the Convent in Walz St before it closed and loved being here so much that she moved to the independent Aged Care in Frederick St after the Sisters vacated the convent. Those of us who knew Sr Marie White will miss her quiet and gracious presence that has been with us for many years at Rockdale. We wish her good health and ask that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Dear Father Yacub

I write to inform you that with declining health Sr Marie White has accepted a room St Joseph's Aged Care, Hunters Hill. Sr Marie has lived in the Rockdale Parish and until recent years has been supportive of the school staff and students. She enjoyed living amongst the people of Rockdale and participating in the life of the Parish.

The Sisters of St Joseph took leadership of St Joseph's School Rockdale in 1912.

Sadly, Sr Marie's move to Hunters Hill brings to a conclusion one hundred and thirteen years of Josephite ministry and presence in Rockdale. We leave in sadness but grateful for the opportunities presented, friendships forged and, we hope that our presence within the community will see a lasting legacy of our Josephite Heart.

On behalf of the Sisters of St Joseph, thank you to the Parish for a wonderful partnership, and personal best wished for your ministry, Fr Yacub.

Yours sincerely

Sr Anne Porter rsj

NSW Regional Leader

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

Christmas Carols will again be sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held on **Sunday, 21st December from 8.00pm**. Please gather your family and friends and come along to support our parishioners and show the real joy of the Christmas Season with fellow local residents. **Everyone is welcome!**



CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL 2025

Mark your calendars! Christmas at the Cathedral returns next month from **17 to 25 December!** Join family and friends at the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, for nine fun-filled nights of market stalls, delicious food, roaming entertainment and live performances. Experience stunning light projections that bring the beloved Christmas song "The Little Drummer Boy" to life, transforming the cathedral into a beautiful spectacle. The event will be on each of the nights from 5:30 – 10:30pm with lights on at 8:30 PM each night in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit <https://christmasatthecathedral.org.au>.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2026 Columban Calendars are now available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. They assist the Columban Missionaries in meeting the needs of the poor and make a great Christmas gift.

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.

HEALING MASS

Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be celebrating Mass on **Tuesday, 16th December** at St. Joseph's, Rockdale at 7.00pm. As this is a Tuesday, the usual Tuesday night prayers, Benediction and Rosary will take place as usual from 5.30pm. We urge you to bring your family and friends to experience this beautiful occasion.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Education leaders honoured with papal awards
- Pope Leo raises Mary Glowrey MJM to 'venerable'
- One week, three deacons ordained for Sydney
- Australia commemorates Red Wednesday
- Christopher West returns to teach JPPI's Theology of the Body

CAROLS FOR PEACE

"Carols for Peace" is hosted by the University Chaplaincies in association with Artes Christi Orchestra, combined Universities Choir, bagpipes & much more. This will be held on **Friday 19 Dec** from 6.30pm in The Sydney Town Hall. Entry by donation \$10+ supporting Aid to the Church In Need. Bookings Essential www.theword.org.au

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC EXHIBITIONS

This special exhibition will feature the brand-new International Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis and the Shroud of Turin including a full-sized Replica of the Shroud. This will be held on **ONE DAY ONLY, Saturday 20th December** (11am-2pm) in The Sydney Town Hall. Entry by donation \$5+ supporting Aid to the Church in Need. **Bookings Essential** www.theword.org.au

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney that 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: Roberta Prior and Pino Simone

ANNIVERSARIES: Christina Truant, Carmelo Sapuppo, Joseph Brown, Joseph Giovenco, Peter Barlow, Paul Vella, Mary Thomson, Anna Preziosa, Joyce Fitzgerald, Violeta Sollazzo and Clive Breen.

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.