



# 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)

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B - 6 & 7 APRIL 2024



**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](http://www.mmrc.org.au)

**Email:** [admin@mmrc.org.au](mailto: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
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	9.00am	9.00am ( <i>Italian</i> )	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		10.30am 6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i> )	5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday ( <i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 5.30pm</i> ) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday ( <i>Benediction at 8.45am</i> )
<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	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
<b>BAPTISMS</b>	10.00am 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
<i>1st Reading:</i> Acts 4:32-35; <i>2nd Reading:</i> 1 Jn 5:1-6; <i>Gospel:</i> Jn 20:19-31			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' *R/*

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
His right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.  
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,  
but not doomed to die. *R/*

The stone, which the builders rejected,  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. *R/*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You believe in me Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!  
**Alleluia!**



### FUNERAL THIS WEEK

A funeral service will be held in St Gabriel's Church on Monday at 10.00am for the late Patricia Roach.

### DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION

**This Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April**, is the Second Sunday of Easter and the Feast of Divine Mercy. This will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church, Rockdale this Sunday afternoon with observance of the Holy Hour, Benediction and Reconciliation at 2pm, followed by Mass at 3:15pm.

### PROJECT COMPASSION DONATIONS

**Please return your Project Compassion envelopes and boxes as soon as possible.** If you wish to receive a tax-deductible receipt at the end of the financial year, please provide your complete ALL details (name, address, contact number) on the slip provided.

### BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Allegra Beashel who will be baptised on Sunday at St Francis Xavier's.

### EASTER HOME BLESSING

If you did not receive the special prayer that accompanies the newly blessed holy water last weekend, there will be some available at Masses this weekend. It is a custom for people to want their houses blessed at Easter. Please feel free to take a bottle of newly-blessed Easter Water. **Please only take one bottle** to ensure there are sufficient for people attending the other Masses. If you wish to have a priest visit to bless your home, please contact the Parish Office 9567 1558 to make a booking.

## DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

The Feast of the Annunciation is internationally recognised as the Day of the Unborn Child. It marks the day Our Lord Jesus Christ became a tiny unborn child in His mother's womb, and it is a day of celebration and remembrance of the dignity of the unborn. An initiative of Family Life International, **next Sunday, April 14**, there will be a street procession following 10:30 a.m. Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will lead the procession, which will be followed by an address at Parliament House by guest speaker Archbishop Julian Porteous. All are welcome so please invite family and friends as we process for life!

## EUCCHARISTIC RETREAT DAY

Our parish Liturgical Ministers are invited to join the Liturgy Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Eucharistic Retreat Day. All liturgical ministers from our parishes are invited, especially those whose contribution can sometimes be overlooked, e.g. Ushers, Greeters, Collectors, AV Operators, etc. Naturally, other liturgical ministers, such as Readers, Acolytes, Cantors and Musicians, Sacristans, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, etc. are also invited. This day will help you grow in your love for and devotion to the gift of the Holy Eucharist. In addition to talks, a personal testimony, and discussion, the day will include time for silence and prayer during a Holy Hour. An opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Morning tea and lunch are provided. To be held on **Saturday, 11 May**. The doors open at 9.30am and the retreat will be held from 10:00am - 4:00pm at St Martha's, 38 Renwick Street, Leichhardt. **The cost is \$15**. For more information, please email [sydney@op-tn.org](mailto:sydney@op-tn.org) or to book visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1162316>

## WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT

The Jesus Light of the World Communities invite parishioners to day retreat with Mother Mary and Fr Rey Sentillas, MI will be held **next Saturday, 13 April** from 9:00 am – 5:30pm (including Mass) in St Joseph's Parish Hall, Rockdale, Parking in the school grounds. **FREE** Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea. Booking essential for the purpose of catering Enquiries: Helen – 0433 455 114 or Ida – 0424 267 500.

## SUPPORT FOR CANA COMMUNITIES

Some 225 people in Sydney sleep rough every night, and Cana Communities operates homeless shelters in Sydney, with St Francis Shelter the latest to open its doors in Redfern. Run entirely by volunteers, Cana needs volunteers for Wednesday (women's only night) and Friday shifts (6pm-9:30pm or 9:30pm-7:30am) to welcome and assist guests and prepare meals. All volunteers will receive training. The impact on guests at these shelters cannot be overestimated, considering the alternatives. Be part of a caring community passionate about helping others and making a change. Find out more about becoming a volunteer by email to [info@cana.org.au](mailto:info@cana.org.au)

## 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.

## 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.

## THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Passion Players: The challenges and gifts of playing Jesus
- He is Risen! Standing room only at Cathedral Easter
- Sydney takes to the streets for Seven Churches Visitation
- Monica Doumit: Make your voice heard on the "Equality" Bill
- CW front page star little Lovre's miracle
- Book Review: Meet the women who bucked the birth trend

## HELP STOP THE 'EQUALITY' BILL

NSW Parliament will soon be debating a bill tabled by Alex Greenwich MP. While marketed as an 'equality' bill, the bill will have disastrous impacts on vulnerable women and children, as well as for faith communities. Amongst the proposals are the liberalisation of prostitution and surrogacy laws, the ability for a person to self-identify their sex on official documents and the stripping away of religious protections in our laws. A parliamentary inquiry is currently underway, with the community invited to fill out a short survey to express their views. <https://bit.ly/3VIPpNB> **The survey closes next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April.**

## BECOME A GREATER LIKENESS OF CHRIST!

Join Friar Ben Johnson OFM Cap online for a thought-provoking short course, titled 'Christ the Purgative, Illuminative, and Perfective Way: An Introduction to Christology.' To be held on Mondays 15, 22, and 29 April from 7:30pm – 8:45pm - **Online via Zoom**. The cost per course is \$35. To find out more and to register, visit [gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko](http://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko)

## COVID REMINDER

- Please note that Covid is still all around us and masks are recommended in churches.
- 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 distancing from others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space before joining the queue.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Victor Romanov, Patricia Roach, Clementina Zanardo, William Taylor and Minda Fong.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Joan Coleman, Maureen Batty, Joan Morgan, Fausto Rossi, Jonathan Huntley, Maria Corazon Diego, Giuseppe Baldassare and Charles Bruce.

**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

"In God alone, I trust." 1.2.1874

