

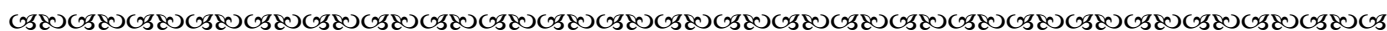
# PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

## 8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C - 1 & 2 MARCH 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](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> ) 10.30am	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		12.00pm ( <i>First Sunday only Urdu</i> )	5.00pm
		6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i> )	
<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	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Sirach, 27:4-7</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>1 Cor 15:54-58</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 6:39-45</i>			

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 91:2-3.13-16**

**Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night. *R/*

The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. *R/*

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.

In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *R/*



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.

**Alleluia!**



**BAPTISMS**

This weekend we welcome Luca Lee and Rhian Rees who will be baptised at St Francis Xavier's on Sunday. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special occasion.



**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**This coming Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March.**

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.00am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY**

Today is Project Compassion Sunday. The Project Compassion Envelopes are available for collection this weekend at all Masses. Please take a set home and return it each week by placing it in the special box provided in each of the churches or place on the collection plate. This Lent, let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves. One of the great traditions in Lent is to give-up something we enjoy. The money normally spent on this enjoyment could be given to Project Compassion as a means of linking your alms-giving with your Lenten sacrifice and penance.

**FAMILY MASS TODAY**

Today at the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's we welcome the students, families and staff for a Family Mass. There will be a morning tea following the Mass in the Parish Hall. **All parishioners are most welcome to join in.**

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Commencing this coming Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, the Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday's during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm in 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 commencing Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March. Italian Confessions will be held every Wednesday before and after Italian Stations of the Cross

## LENTEN PENANCE

In this season of Lent, we seek to experience the mercy of God the Father, and to practice it in our daily lives. But first we must experience our need for mercy, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above all, and to love our fellow men and women as ourselves. This is why the Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the merciful love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent.

In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance. Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call "the social dimension of sin". The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore, during Lent and on every Friday throughout the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence; in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

**Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of The Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.**

## ST MARY WACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Let us all have courage." 14.10.1871



## 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.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### Country theme for 2025 - Cook Islands

The World Day of Prayer next Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women aim to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions. The day is celebrated by women and men each year in over 170 countries. The service will start at **10:30am at the Salvation Army, 432 West Botany St, Rockdale** followed by light refreshments, finishing at about 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - OPEN DAYS

Our three primary schools and two feeder high schools, Marist College Kogarah and Bethany College, Hurstville, will be celebrating **Catholic Schools Week** by holding 'Open Days'. Parishioners who have children eligible to start Kindergarten in 2026 or high school in 2027 are most welcome to visit. *Enrolment packages for the schools will be available on these days.*

- ✓ **St Gabriel's Bexley** Please phone 9502 1932.
- ✓ **St Joseph's Rockdale** (9599 2541)
- ✓ Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am - 11.00am and 3.30 - 4.30pm.
- ✓ **St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe** (9567 5389)  
Tuesday 4 March, 5.00 – 6.30 pm  
Thursday 6 March, 5.00 – 6.30 pm
- ✓ **Bethany College Hurstville** (8566 0711) Enrolling Year 7, 2027 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm – 6.30p.m.
- ✓ **Marist College Kogarah** (9587 3211) Enrolling Year 7, 2027 on Wednesday 12 March, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

## WALZ STREET CLOSURE

Bayside Council is closing Walz Street for Ramadan in Bayside. Vehicles will not be permitted to park in Walz Street between 4.30pm to 8.30pm and no vehicle will be allowed to enter or exit Walz Street between 1.00pm on **Saturday 22 March** to 2am on Sunday morning.

Parishioners driving to the 6.30pm Mass are to enter the school playground via Railway and Parker Streets. You will need to tell the security guards you are going to the church so they can open the barriers to give you access to Parker St. Please note that the church/school grounds will be **locked up at 7.30pm promptly** following Mass and any cars left in these areas will have to remain until the gates are opened for the Sunday morning 9.00am Mass. Please do not plan to attend the festival and to park your car in the school grounds after Mass.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Rebecca Forwood and Dorothy Molachino.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Patricia Parkinson, Benedetta La Vite, Angelo Vaccaro, Rita Young, Olive Williams, Ntanos family, Viliam, Justina & Karol Kovac, Giorgio Festa and Judith Ann Baker.

**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.**