

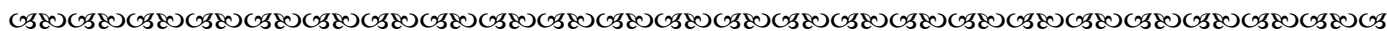
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 9 & 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

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.)

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	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am (<i>Italian</i>)	9.00am
Sunday Masses		10.30am	5.00pm
		6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	
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	11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 st Reading: <i>Jer 20:7-9</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Rom 12:1-2</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 16:21-27</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps. 94:1-2.6-9

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. *R/*



Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. *R/*

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation
he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!



CONFIRMATION

Last Thursday night, the children at St Joseph's were Confirmed by Bishop Terry Brady. This coming week, the children at St Francis Xavier's will be Confirmed on Wednesday by Bishop Terry Brady and the children at St Gabriel's will be Confirmed on Thursday by Fr Michael McLean, EV.

Congratulations to over 100 of our parish children.

We thank those who were involved in making this day special for our children. Thank you to Mrs Monique Cohen, Sacramental Co-ordinator, the Catechists who taught the lessons, Parish Office Staff, Religious Education Co-ordinators, Family Educators and the teaching staff from our parish schools. Special thanks to the staff at St Francis Xavier's Primary who taught the children in school time. Thanks to everyone who worked to get these events organised as it was a huge task to set up three separate nights for the Confirmations. Thank you also to those who prepared the churches and provided music and singing for the Masses.



PRIEST'S RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL

Thank you to those who so generously supported the Appeal last weekend for the retired priests. If you still have an envelope, you may place it on one of the collection plates this weekend.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Next weekend 16/17 September at all the Masses we will be having a guest speaker from the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international Congregation founded in France in 1839 by St Jeanne Jugan. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome. They have a home for the elderly in Randwick where they have been caring for them with very limited resources for over 132 years. Many of their residents are retired priests. The Sisters rely on Providence and the generosity of friends and benefactors to help them to provide extra comforts for their Residents and to maintain the ongoing improvements of their Home. At the moment, they are upgrading their fire system, which is a requirement, and so are in need of extra funds. They appreciate very much your anticipated support to their mission.



Following the Masses on this weekend, the Sisters will be outside the church doors to enable parishioners to give a donation to assist the Sisters in their care of the elderly. Please bring a few extra \$\$ and help boost their funds. ☺

CALVARY HOSPITAL GARAGE SALE

The Calvary Auxiliary will be holding a “garage sale” next Saturday 16th September from 8.00am – 2.00pm Household and general items only (NO electrical). Corner of Rocky Point Rd & Fitzgerald Ave, Kogarah. ***Bargain prices*** All welcome!

SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur’an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering, scan the QR code or visit www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal



LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SUNDAY

All families are invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday 22 October**, with an opportunity for renewal of marital promises and a special blessing for families. Join us after Mass at the Cathedral Hall to witness and celebrate couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Registrations are essential to receive a certificate. RSVP by no later than 6 October at <http://www.trybooking.com/CJTNE>

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Sr Moana Grace on her final profession in the US
- Two new shepherds for Sydney
- Commonwealth Bank CEO addresses business network
- Young Catholic to star in lead role of Miss Saigon
- Fr Flader: Was Joseph assumed into heaven?
- Ukrainian Catholics upset by Holy Father's Russia remarks

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.

BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome Allegra Buffolin and Hayden Husband at St Joseph's. Welcome also to their families and friends who join them on their special occasion.



PARISH WEBSITE: www.mmrc.org.au

Have you visited our parish website yet? The website combines the Mary MacKillop Rockdale City (Arncliffe and Rockdale) and St Gabriel's Bexley. The Parish Bulletin is uploaded each week if you can't get to Mass. You can make secure online payments and donations through the “Support the Parish” page or contact the Parish Office through the “Contact Us” page to make enquiries, Mass offerings or to volunteer your time in any of our Parish ministries.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE RETREAT DAY

“You are not alone” is a retreat day for couples who are struggling or have been unable to have children due to infertility, miscarriage or stillbirth. The day will be held on the **7th October** at Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa and will include meals, talks, prayer, reflection, and sharing. The Emmanuel Community will facilitate the retreat with the support of the Life Marriage and Family Team. Due to the sensitive nature of this experience, spaces will be limited. Couples should RSVP by the 2nd of October at <http://www.trybooking.com/CKWXP>

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **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 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: Mary Chappell

ANNIVERSARIES: Antonius Widjaja, Patricia Moore, Fr Lindsley Wholohan, Lina Alterio, Maria Lizzo, Annemarie Petunis, Anna Pagano, Carmen Bugeja, Pierina Ruaro, Filippa Altavilla, Marcello Tini, Antonina Caltabiano, Francisco Lim, Grace, Elia, Les, George & Jean Spiteri and Raquel Lopes.

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

“Let us all pray that the spirit of St Joseph will accompany his children, and that they may do much good for themselves and others.” 1.4.1880

