ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

EASTER SUNDAY - YEAR A – 4 &5 APRIL 2026

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 Thursday: 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 *(Italian)* 10.30am 12.00pm *(First Sunday only Urdu)* 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 2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
BAPTISMS	10.00am 1st Sunday of the month	11.30am 2nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3rd 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.		
1st Reading: ***Acts 10:34.37-43***; 2nd Reading: ***Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8***; Gospel: ***Jn 20:1-9*** *(Sunday Morning Mass)*			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*Sunday Morning Mass only*)

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end. ℟

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. ℟

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. ℟

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

EASTER HOME BLESSING

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** this weekend to ensure there are sufficient for people attending the other Masses. If you wish to have a priest visit to bless your home, please email the Parish Office.

THANK YOU EVERYONE ☺

We give special thanks to Fr Geoffrey Plant for helping our parishes with the Holy Week Masses and ceremonies. We are most grateful for your presence among us again. Happy Easter to you from all of us!

Thank you to all those people, too numerous to name personally, who helped make our celebrations this past week both prayerful and beautiful. The readers, acolytes, extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, servers, those who volunteered to have their feet washed, the musicians and singers, the young people who presented the Stations of the Cross, the flower arrangers, those who prepared and cleaned the sanctuaries and churches, those who prepared the Easter fires and the Parish Office Staff. No doubt some have has been missed from this list for which I apologise.

It is important for us to acknowledge the generosity and dedication of these people who volunteer their time and efforts in order that we may enjoy the privilege of gathering in a lovely and peaceful setting to worship and praise our God. Let us not take the efforts of these people for granted. Perhaps their example might inspire you to be more involved in the life of our parishes.
Father Yacub.

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Let us really love one another." (15.9.1890)

EASTER MESSAGE

Alleluia! He is Risen!

Today we celebrate the greatest victory of all time – Jesus' triumph over death. His resurrection brings us hope, joy and new life. This is victory over darkness, despair and death, offering a promise of new beginning, eternal life and healing. It is a message that love conquers all, inviting us to find peace, joy and spiritual renewal in the assurance that God's promises are true.

We are called to be a "Resurrection People" – not to be "buried" in the tomb of our sins but to seek Jesus always like the first disciples. We look for the Risen Lord in our everyday lives – in the faces of our brothers and sisters and in ordinary situations.

More than anything else, we are called to be witnesses to bring the good news of hope, peace and love and forgiveness. In times of global crisis especially among warring nations, we are invited in our own community and parish to do small acts of kindness, forgiveness and by offering hope to those who have none. Christ is risen and because He lives, we can face tomorrow with a hope that never fades.

Let us remember that Jesus' sacrifice and love are the reasons for our celebration. May we carry this hope and love with us, spreading kindness and light in our parish, community and the world.

Wishing you a Blessed Easter filled with faith and the promise of a new life!
Fr. Yacub Barkat

FATHER YACUB ON LEAVE

Father Yacub will be taking leave to travel home to Pakistan from next Monday, 13th April. He will return for the Masses on Sunday, 17th May. Please wish Father Yacub safe travels and a joyous time with his family.
There will be a replacement priest, Father Michael Stephan msc from Randwick parish, assisting Father Norvin with Masses in Father Yacub's absence. Please welcome him when you meet him.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CATHOLICS

At the Easter Vigil Mass this Saturday night at St Francis Xavier's, we welcome Benazir Taporaie and who will be Baptised and Confirmed in the Catholic faith. Nina Brini will receive her First Holy Communion. We congratulate them for taking this important step in their faith journey and thank those who helped them on this journey.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please don't forget that **Easter Offerings** are a vital income for the church. The special envelopes are available in each of our churches this weekend. Please take one home and return it next weekend with your donation. The money from the Easter Offerings is remitted to a central fund caring for the needs of priests and deacons of the Archdiocese who need support. Your ongoing prayerful and practical support of the clergy is appreciated.

REQUIEM MASS

A Requiem Mass will be **held this coming Wednesday, 8th April** in St Gabriel's Church at 11.00am for the late Genevieve O'Brien. Please keep her family in your prayers.

EUCHARIST28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive your reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ, Amen

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **this coming week.** If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email and this will be replied to after Monday, 13th April.

THANK YOU FROM PROJECT COMPASSION!

Your generosity through Project Compassion this year empowers some of the world's most vulnerable people to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities. Thank you so much for being part of Project Compassion 2026!

Please return your Project Compassion donation envelopes and boxes as soon as possible. Please provide ALL your details and tick the relevant box on the slip provided if you wish to receive a tax-deductible receipt at the end of the financial year. It is not too late to donate to Project Compassion by Ph: 1800 024 413 or visiting their website: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Next Sunday, 12th April, is the Second Sunday of Easter and the Feast of Divine Mercy. This will be celebrated in St Joseph's Church, Rockdale with an observance of the Holy Hour, Benediction and Reconciliation at 2pm, followed by Mass at 3:00pm. Light refreshments will be served after the Mass. Come and celebrate with us!

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

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: Genevieve O'Brien, Guido Galizia, Derek Lucas and Lloyd Taborada.

ANNIVERSARIES: Victor Romanov, Maureen Batty, Fausto Rossi, Jonathan Huntley, Justin, Tony and Carmen Grech and Mother Alphonsus Bell sm,

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.