

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)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - YEAR C - 18 & 19 DECEMBER 2021

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Priest – Fr William Chow



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

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 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.		
1 st Reading: <i>Micah 5:1-4</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Heb 10:5-10</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 1:39-45</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 79:2-3.15-16.18-19

**Lord make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord,
come to our help. *R/*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. *R/*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. *R/*



LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

4th Sunday of Advent

[Sign of the Cross]

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All: Who made heaven and earth.

[The fourth candle is lit]

Priest: Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children who long for your coming. Amen.

All: Lord, make us one in the Love of Christ
today and for ever. Amen

[Opening Prayer]



FR WILLIAM LEAVING OUR PARISHES

Fr William Chow will be leaving our twinned parishes at the end of December. He has been asked to go to Eastwood Parish. We wish him all the best and thank him for ministering to us over the past few months.

FR BRENDAN

Please welcome Fr Brendan back to our parishes as assists Fr Yacub over the Christmas period with an occasional Mass in our churches.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!



CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM FR YACUB

This weekend at all Masses, Fr Yacub would like to give each family a gift of a special pen as a Christmas gift from him. Please only take one per family to use in your home.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Check-ins are still required for places of worship, funerals or memorial services.
- Masks will be strongly encouraged in places where you cannot socially distance, **i.e., places of worship.**
- Weddings and funerals are permitted with no limit.
- Singing is now permitted.
- The sign of peace will be at your own discretion.
- **When preparing to receive Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to go seat by seat to enable more distancing between others who are in the line. Please go from the nearest seat to the Priest or Acolyte but please wait until there is space to join the queue before standing up.**
- ANYONE entering the church must give their details before entering the church. You can use the Service NSW QR code at the door.
- Only one door will be opened to enable accurate recording of those attending.
- Hands must be sanitised when entering the church.
- Please do not come to the church if you are unwell.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm this coming Thursday, 23rd December until 9.00am Monday, 3rd January.** This is to allow the office staff some quality time with their families. If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email, this will be replied to after 3rd January.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have ordered extra copies of the 2022 Columban Calendars, and they are available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. They make a lovely Christmas gift. There are also a good selection of Religious Christmas cards at extremely affordable prices.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We have a number of parishioners who are suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, so we ask that you please keep them all in your prayers.

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Bring your family to St Mary's Cathedral in the evening from **Thursday, 9th December to Christmas Day** and enjoy the lights of Christmas on the front façade of the Cathedral. Visiting choirs will sing Carols from 7:30pm (most nights) and the light show will run continuously from 8.30pm to 11pm every evening. Masks are mandatory, with QR code entry and proof of vaccination.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

As is customary, Christmas Offering envelopes are available in each of the Churches. The money from the Christmas Offerings is remitted to a central fund caring for the needs of priests and deacons of the Archdiocese. We have many priests that work in special areas, such as the seminary, chaplaincies and other agencies as well as in parishes that are unable to financially meet the needs of their priests. Our ongoing prayerful and practical support of the clergy in the Archdiocese is very much appreciated.

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

These are located at the doors of each of our Churches. It is always helpful to **at least one week's notice** if you wish the name of a deceased loved one to be mentioned at a certain time.

A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary places her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

(Times also listed on the parish website)

RECONCILIATION

Rockdale Tuesday, 21st December 6.00 - 6.30pm
Italian (Rockdale) Wednesday, 22nd December 3.00 - 3.30pm

MASSES

Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th December

N.B. No morning Mass at Arncliffe today.

Bexley 5.00pm
Arncliffe 5.00pm
Rockdale 6.30pm

Midnight Mass, Friday night/Saturday morning

Rockdale 12.00am Midnight

Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am
Bexley 9.00am
Rockdale 9.00am (Italian)
Rockdale 10.30am
Rockdale 11.30am – Extra Mass this year
Bexley 5.00pm – Extra Mass this year

Boxing Day, Sunday, 26th December

N.B. No Vigil Masses at either Arncliffe or Rockdale for Sunday and NO 5pm Mass at Bexley in the afternoon.

Bexley 9.00am; Arncliffe 9.00am and Rockdale 10.30am.

New Year's Day – Saturday 1st January

Masses as per regular timetable.

BECOME A CATECHIST OR HELPER IN 2022

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. We ask if you would share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

Please speak with Fr Yacub or the Catechist Coordinators: Lee Kendrick (Rockdale/Arncliffe), 0422 257 331 or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469

ANNIVERSARIES: William Quirk, Nello Faraone, Miriam Shields, William Moore, Betty Donovan, Bernie Donovan and John Bridges.

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 rest in peace.

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

“Be faithful and lose not one opportunity of merit that presents itself to you.” 26.4.1873

