

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)

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD - YEAR A - 5 & 6 AUGUST 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 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>Dan 7:9-10, 13-14</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>2 Pet 1:16-19</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 17:1-9</i> | | | |

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – ps. 96:1-2,5-6, 9

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

The Lord is King, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. *R/*

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. *R/*

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved,
in whom is all my delight: listen to him.

Alleluia!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER YACUB

This past Friday, 4th August was Father's 60th Birthday. Please wish him all the very best for this special occasion as you greet him at Mass this weekend.



CHARITABLE WORKS' FUND (CWF)

This weekend, 5 & 6 August there will be a third collection after Holy Communion for donations to the Charitable Works' Fund appeal. The Archbishop uses the money from these appeals to help fund various pastoral activities within the archdiocese: hospital, gaol and university chaplaincies, the deaf community, the aboriginal community, seminarians preparing for priesthood, CatholicCare and resources for catechists visiting public schools to name just a few.

Each parish is given a quota to fund each appeal. These quotas are determined according to each parish's income and population. If this quota is not met, then the shortfall comes from our parish funds.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, but please make sure you complete the details required on the envelopes provided. Donations in envelopes will be accepted next weekend.

FEAST OF ST MARY MACKILLOP

"Happy Feast Day" to all of you, especially to Sister Marie White, for this coming Tuesday, 8th August and the Feast of St Mary MacKillop. May you be showered with blessings resulting from her prayers. The Sisters of St Joseph taught in all three of our parish primary schools so we have a strong connection to her sisters in our local area.



BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

I thank everyone for coming and celebrating with me the most significant event in my life. I am truly grateful for your presence. We only celebrate 60 once in a lifetime, so let us celebrate with fond memories.

People say turning 60 is a huge milestone. After all, it is a new chapter, a new beginning, a new page, new markings in the history and story of one's life. I have reached this stage, 6 decades to be exact. It was a wonderful journey and still an amazing journey as I flip a new page in my life. This journey will not be complete without the love of people and friends who supported me through the thick and thin contingencies of life. My never-ending gratitude to a loving God – the Author of my life, always patient and His love is truly unconditional. My parents were truly instruments of God's implementing love shaping me to be who I am, my siblings and friends and significant others who played a vital role in my meaningful journey. In fact, your presence today completes the cycle of 60.

Today I am also starting my diamond jubilee. More than its monetary value, it represents love and commitment. It symbolizes everything from everlasting love to eternal friendship. This is a symbol of God's love and faithfulness to me for the last 60 years of my life. As the song says, "Age is just a number, a perfect 10, 6 times in a row." Life has never been perfect, but on the process. Seriously, St. Irenaeus says "The glory of God is man fully alive." This is what God wants us to be – alive in His love.

Reaching the age of 60 is indeed a blessing, and it brings the opportunity to celebrate being ageless and free. This is a time to reflect on a well lived life and to celebrate the many achievements even failures, joys and happiness, sorrow and sadness that have led to this life. I can finally embrace the true meaning of life well lived and all the many blessings that life has brought this way. I look at life with more optimism, positivity and gratitude. Let us not add the number of years in our life but add life to our years. Take note that the purpose of life is to live life with a purpose.

Thank you and God bless everyone!

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

Tuesday, 15th August, is the **Feast of the Assumption**. Catholics are obliged to attend Mass on this Feast Day. Masses to be celebrated in our churches will be at:

8.00am Marist College Kogarah
9.00am Bexley 9.00am Arncliffe
10.30am Rockdale 7.00pm Rockdale

"TAP & GO" MACHINES IN OUR CHURCHES

Parishioners are asked to give to our parishes via the Tap & Go machines which are located in each of our churches. It is a quick and easy way to donate when people don't bring cash to Mass to put on the collection plates. This money goes directly into the parish account and not sent elsewhere. The benefit for the parish of receiving monies this way is to enable us to receive the money instantly and to allow us to have money available for payment for upkeep of the parishes, the utilities and the facilities. It's an added donation to us and we would love it if you can take more advantage of it. ☺

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.

CONFIRMATION

The children from our parishes commence their lessons for the Confirmation program this weekend. Please keep them all in your prayers as they seek guidance from the Holy Spirit.



BAPTISM



We welcome Diego Porley who will be baptised at St Francis Xavier's this Sunday. We also welcome his family and friends who join him on this special occasion.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- God is calling: Vocations Guide 2023
- Universities & Colleges Open Days 2023
- Phones banned in Sydney Catholic Schools
- Archbishop Fisher confirms two pilgrims at Nazareth
- Pilgrims engaged, renew vows, at WYD
- Dallas McInerney: Sinead O'Connor remembered

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES & RECEIPTS

These are now available from the Parish Office if you have not picked yours up from the church.

CALIX SOCIETY

"We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies". Stay and sober with the Catholic faith and a 12-Step program. Join in is in prayer for: total abstinence, spiritual development, and personal sanctification. Do you "thirst" for more? Contact calixsydney@outlook.com or <https://www.calixsociety.org>

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly 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.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph Mandile, Maria Varacalli, Pietro Tesoriero, Dorothy Molloy, Giuseppe Casagrande, John Samuel, Ross McIntosh, Giuseppina Suppa, Julia Burns, Primo Russo, John Delfino, Richard Hipolito, Maria & Otto Kovac and Maria Nguyen Thi Tuyet.

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

"May God bless you and keep you strong and help you in your anxieties." 3.12.1900

