

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)

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C - 8 & 9 FEBRUARY 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 **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 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
WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am <i>(Italian)</i> 10.30am 12.00pm <i>(First Sunday only Urdu)</i> 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>Is 6:1-8</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 15:1-11</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 5:1-11</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 137:1-5,7-8

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
 you have heard the words of my mouth.
 Before the angels I will bless you.
 I will adore before your holy temple. *R/*

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
 which excel all we ever knew of you.
 On the day I called, you answered;
 you increased the strength of my soul. *R/*

All earth's kings shall thank you
 when they hear the words of your mouth.
 They shall sing of the Lord's ways.
 'How great is the glory of the Lord!' *R/*

You stretch out your hand and save me,
 your hand will do all things for me.
 Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
 discard not the work of your hands. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Come follow me, says the Lord,
 and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!



FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2025

All Catholic baptised children currently in Year 4 or over who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the Public schools within our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation in Term 1 and their First Holy Communion in Term 2. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening on **Thursday, 27th February**, in St Joseph's Hall at 7.00pm **for the parents of the children.**

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting as the Registration Form for the programme will be handed out on the night. There will also be some general information about the First Holy Communion program on the night.

You are asked to bring a copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate to the meeting.

There is ample parking in the school grounds off Parker St, Rockdale.

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Evander Feng and Kaia Gonzales who will be baptised at St Joseph's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special day.



REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.

PROSED MERGER OF ROCKDALE CITY AND BEXLEY PARISHES

Dear faithful parishioners of Rockdale City and Bexley Parishes,

Firstly, I want to thank each one of you that has taken their time in sharing with me their feedback about the pending amalgamation of St Mary MacKillop, Rockdale City and St Gabriel, Bexley Parishes.

The support you have expressed towards this initiative has been a great affirmation for the future of the Catholic faith in our local area.

To further clarify why this amalgamation is beneficial to our community and ensure the mission of Christ is sustainable in our area, I wanted to highlight the key benefits that the unification will bring:

- The three Churches and schools will still retain their unique identity and names, that being St Gabriel Bexley, St Francis Xavier Arncliffe and St Joseph Rockdale, under a new parish name of St Mary MacKillop, Rockdale City.
- It formalises the already existing relationship between our communities over the last 10 years.
- It allows us to better plan for the future of our parishes by developing a united vision and plan for evangelisation and outreach in the local area
- It allows us to better serve the mission of Christ in the local area, with a greater pool of gifts, talents and resources which will enable us to have a continued Catholic presence in the area.
- Further, coming together as one community will allow us to invest in hiring additional pastoral staff to serve such as a Youth Minister, Evangelisation Officer or Pastoral Worker to assist our parish in various evangelisation initiatives the needs of our community
- This formalisation will also greatly reduce the administration of the parishes allowing me to focus more time on the pastoral needs of our community.

Father Yacub

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR VISITS

This weekend 8th & 9th February at 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 our 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. 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. ☺



COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are five Columban Calendars in the Rockdale Piety Stall for \$10.00 if you haven't purchased yours this year.

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.

BAYSIDE ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

On **Friday, 28th February** at 6.30pm, all parishioners are invited to attend St Joseph's Rockdale to join with the Bayside Christian Alliance in a joint prayer service. This includes all local denominations in the Bayside area. Please gather some family and friends and join the service. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards. All welcome!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Country theme for 2025 - Cook Islands

The World Day of Prayer on **Friday, 7th 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 CARE SERVICES

Need a little Extra help at home? CatholicCare Sydney offers a range of services for you or a loved one to remain happy in your home. Their qualified team can help you with:

- Domestic assistance
- Day-to-day tasks like shopping
- Connecting with others
- In-home respite care
- Personal care
- Health and wellness activities
- Allied Health & Clinical Support

Phone 13 18 19 for enquiries or visit:

www.catholiccare.org/senior-services

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: Greg Petrie, Patrick Edgerton, Sr Clare Riley CSB and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bernadette Comber, Mary-Imelda Leslie, Raquel Goncalves, Pio Leso, Rosina Giardullo, Teresa Vitturino, Euphemia Vella, Angeliki Kouvelis, Antonio & Maria Rosa Costa, Danielle Yepes, Elena Tabtab and Micheal & Maria Sakr.

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

"It is not those who can pay us well that we should first seek, but rather the poor and neglected where we can find the means of supporting them." 25.5.1875

