

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 OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 17 & 18 DECEMBER 2022

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.		
1st Reading: <i>Is 7:10-14</i> ; 2nd Reading: <i>Rom 1:1-7</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 18-24</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and all its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. *R/*

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. *R/*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. *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]

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

As is customary, Christmas Offering envelopes are on the pews 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, military 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.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm next Friday, 23rd December until 9.00am Tuesday, 3rd January**. 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 3rd January.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATION

Rockdale (Italian) – Wednesday, 21st December 10am

MASSES

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24th December

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm

Bexley 6.30pm

Midnight Mass, Saturday/Sunday morning

Arncliffe: 12.00 Midnight (Carols at 11.30pm)

Christmas Day, Sunday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am Italian

Rockdale 10.30am

Bexley 5.00pm

New Year's Eve/New Year's Day

Saturday, 31st/Sunday 1st January

As per normal weekend Mass schedule.

BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Isabella Anzalone who will be baptised at St Gabriel's. We also welcome her family and friends who join her on this special day.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE

A parish pilgrimage is planned for **27 April to 9 May 2023**. Fr Yacub will be leading the group and would love to have some parishioners join him on the journey. They will be travelling to Rome and the Holy Land. Cost is from \$3,830.00 per person/twin share **excluding flights and some meals**. We must know numbers by **Tuesday 3 January 2023** for the Pilgrimage to go ahead. **Please respond by email to admin@mmrc.org.au**

GABBIES SEWING ANGELS

2022, the 21st year of Gabbies Sewing Angels, proved to be another very successful productive year with 10080 articles made by our wonderful band of volunteers. The group donated these articles to the following Lismore floods, Ukrainian refugees, Fiji, New Guinea, Timor Leste and Australian Aborigines in the Northern Territory.

In addition to our usual donation to Samaritan's Purse we partnered with the students from St Gabriel's School and completed 105 Christmas Boxes which will go to south-east Asia.

A special thanks to everyone who supported Gabbies to achieve the above through donations, purchase of raffle tickets and the donation of new signs.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, especially over the Christmas period 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 more distancing between others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space and distance before joining the queue.

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.

RCIA SPONSORS REQUESTED

We still require two sponsors for RCIA candidates, one from St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe and one from St Joseph's Rockdale to assist them through the program. If you would be willing to accompany this person on their journey to becoming a Catholic, please contact the parish office on 9567 1588. The commitment would mean attending a lesson with the candidate and RCIA team each Tuesday night for a few months.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Come along to St Mary's Cathedral forecourt until **25 December** and join the festivities. They will begin at 7pm with Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities and live entertainment for the children. The signature light show of Christmas art will be projected onto the cathedral from 8:30pm. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has announced that proceeds raised at this year's Christmas at the Cathedral event will go directly towards providing relief and recovery to the victims of the NSW flood disaster. Large parts of regional NSW have been hit by severe flooding since September, with thousands of people left homeless and many businesses forced to close. Online donations are welcome for the Archbishop's Flood Appeal via the Our Faith, Our Works website here: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/flood-appeal/>



2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Get your 2023 Calendars before they are sold out. They are available for \$10.00 in our Piety Stalls. Don't forget there are Religious Christmas cards also available in our Piety Stalls.

LIMITED STOCK OF SPECIAL VOTIVE CANDLES

The Parish has purchased a few more of special votive candles as many people missed out. They are designed for use at home as a tribute to a loved one, or holy devotion. They are on sale now for \$35 in our Piety Stalls. They glow continuously for 300 days, and 2 x Alkaline size D batteries are included with the purchase.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Farewell for the People's Bishop
- Shop for Good this Christmas

RECENTLY DECEASED: Grace Ajaka, Alfonse Indur and Christopher Holmes.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Tom Fennell, William Quirk, Nello Faraone, Miriam Shields, William Moore and Elizabeth & Alfredo.

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

"Never is God nearer to us than when danger threatens." 11.12.1880

