



ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities - One Parish

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



PALM SUNDAY - YEAR A - 28 & 29 MARCH 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	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am (Italian) 10.30am	9.00am
Sunday Masses		12.00pm (First Sunday only Urdu) 6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino)	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 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 50:4-7</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Phil 2:6-11</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 26:14-27:66</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24.

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' *R/*



Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. *R/*

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! *R/*

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and
gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

PALM SUNDAY

The trial and death of Jesus reminds us of the tragedy of injustice that continues to this day in so many places around the world. Throughout Lent, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has attempted to draw our attention to many important issues in our world. We have been invited to take up the cross and follow Jesus in our own time, as we Unite Against Poverty. We can pray, with Jesus, 'Let it be as you, not I, would have it.' God's desire is for peace, healing and unity in the face of all the challenges facing humanity. Let us help Jesus carry the cross in our time.

Please return your Project Compassion donation envelopes and boxes as soon as possible. Please provide your complete ALL the 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 visiting their website: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or Ph: 1800 024 413.

COMBINED SCHOOL'S MASS AT ST JOSEPHS

This Palm Sunday, the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's will be a combined school's Mass with St Joseph's Rockdale and Marist College Kogarah. Children from both schools will be participating in the liturgies during the Mass and boys from Kogarah Marist will be assisting Father by doing the readings and reading the parts of the Gospel. We also welcome students and families from local public schools.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE
RECONCILIATIONS & MASSES

Second Rite (Communal celebration)

Tuesday, 31st March at Rockdale - 5.30pm followed by Benediction at 6.30pm and Mass at 7.00pm.

Please note: Once the Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday, the Sacrament of Penance will not be available, except in an emergency situation.

HOLY THURSDAY 2nd April

7.00pm Arncliffe – Bexley – Rockdale
(St Joseph's Church will be open after the Mass till Midnight for prayer and adoration)

GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April

Stations of the Cross

10.00am Arncliffe – Bexley – Rockdale

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

3.00pm Arncliffe – Bexley – Rockdale

HOLY SATURDAY 4th April

5.00pm Bexley 5.00pm Arncliffe
6.30pm Rockdale

EASTER SUNDAY 5th April

9.00am Mass Arncliffe 9.00am Mass Bexley
9.00am Mass Rockdale (Italian)
10.30am Mass Rockdale

N.B. Please note there will be NO 5.00pm Mass at Bexley today.

BAPTISM THIS SUNDAY



Welcome to Dominic Falconi who will be baptised this Sunday at St Gabriel's. We also welcome his family and friends who join him on his special day.

EASTER VIGIL MASSES NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT

Please remember that the Easter Vigil Mass will be much longer than a normal weekend Mass. This Mass will be at least 1.5-2.0 hours long with all the special ceremonies and extra readings.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

As is the custom around the world, there will be a collection on Good Friday at the Stations of the Cross as well as at the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion. The monies collected are forwarded to the Holy Land Commissariat to assist with the upkeep of the Holy Places connected with Christ's Life, Passion and Death in the Holy Land. You do not need to give twice if you attend both ceremonies. Many thanks for your financial support.



FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

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!

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Thousands celebrate annual Day of the Unborn Child
- Lebanon's Christians face 'Calvary' as war intensifies
- The US speakers bringing help for Aussie parents
- A new vision for Catholic education
- St Vincent de Paul 'super group' meets rising need
- George Weigel: An old heresy re-emerges

EUCCHARIST28 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 you 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

SISTINE CHAPEL IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION

From **16 May to 19 July**, the Sistine Chapel Immersive Exhibition will be presented on the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. For the first time, visitors will step inside a purpose-built structure that evokes the breathtaking scale and splendour of the Sistine Chapel, using cutting-edge projection technology and ultra-high-resolution imagery sourced directly from the Vatican archives. The exhibition unfolds across two distinct spaces. The Introductory Gallery offers an informative and engaging journey through the history, architecture, and purpose of the Sistine Chapel from its construction in the 15th century to its role in papal conclaves and its enduring significance as one of the world's most celebrated artistic achievements. The Immersive Projection Chamber, the centrepiece of the exhibition, presents a spectacular digital recreation of the chapel's interior. Surrounded by artistic masterpieces on a monumental scale and accompanied by guided narration, visitors are drawn into the sweeping story of salvation depicted in one of the most extraordinary works of sacred art ever created. Tickets and further information can be found at <https://sistinechapelsydney.com.au/>

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

St Michael's Charismatic Prayer Group presents: A chance for a renewed encounter with God. The seminar series will run for seven weeks commencing Wednesday, 16th April at 6.30pm at St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Carlton, The session and includes Rosary, Praise and Worship, and a talk with various priests and lay speakers.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Roach, Diego Festa, Goder Bet, Vittorio Lombardi and Grace Di Matteo.

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 WACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Let us, one and all, try to remember why God called us here." 21.3.1878

