



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 C - 21 & 22 DECEMBER 2024

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 | 5.00pm Saturday | 6.30pm Saturday | ----- |
| Saturday Vigil | 9.00am | 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am | 9.00am |
| Sunday Masses | | 12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>) | 5.00pm |
| | | 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>) | |
| 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 | 11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month | 10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month |
| | Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours. | | |
| 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/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

CATHOLIC WEEKLY APOLOGY

The Catholic Weekly apologise for the non-delivery of the papers for the past weeks. They have changed their delivery company for us back to Australia Post! We hope all is normal from now on!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Tuesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm
Arncliffe 5.00pm
Rockdale 6.30pm



"Midnight Mass", Tuesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm
(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am **Bexley 9.00am**
Rockdale 9.00am Italian **Rockdale 10.30am**
Bexley 5.00pm

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm Friday 20th December until 9.00am 6th January**. If anyone needs a priest urgently, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If you wish to send an email, this will be replied to on 6th January.

N.B. There will be no Parish Bulletins printed until 11th and 12th January.

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

A Funeral Mass for the late Graeme Lawford will be held this coming **Tuesday, 24th December** in St Gabriel's Church at 10:30am. Please keep his family in your prayers at this time.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

Christmas is in the air. There is a joyful anticipation of Christmas reunions and gatherings, Christmas dinner and exchanging gifts, singing Christmas carols, and never-ending laughter and greetings. But what is the real essence of Christmas? What makes Christmas?

Christmas is really a story of God's love for us. "Basically, it's all this: God loved the world, and He sent His Only Son as a helpless, needy little child. And He said to the human race, "This is my Son whom I love. I give him to you. Now open your hearts and take him in." God's love was revealed to us in this little baby. This is the greatest gift: the gift of God's love to be received, not only during this season but all seasons of our lives, every moment, every day, to take God into our lives, into our hearts, into our minds, into our worries and problems, into the joyful and wonderful events that happen to us, and even the sad and tragic events in our lives. So, the greatest message: Let us allow the Saviour to be reborn in our lives not only this Christmas but every day in our lives. Let us live with hope that in this seemingly chaotic world, we have Jesus who will always journey with us.

Pope Francis announced the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025 on the theme of HOPE. He also decreed that on Sunday, December 29, 2024, as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year. He enjoins that "that in the course of the year every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and the signs that attest to its efficacy" (Spes non confundit 6). The Pope urges us to discover hope in the signs of the times. From the signs of the times, we come to know the signs of hope. May we become Pilgrims of Hope.

This Christmas, as a community, as a parish may we become signs of hope to one another especially the less privileged, then truly the story of Christmas will be reborn in our lives.

May you have a joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year! Fr Yacub Barkat

COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR AMALGAMATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH, ROCKDALE CITY & ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, BEXLEY

My dear parishioners, after many years of sharing in the blessings of faith and community between St Mary's MacKillop, Rockdale City & St Gabriel, Bexley, it is proposed that our communities become one parish to help us bring about the mission of Christ in our local area.

I value your contribution greatly, so it is my hope that this survey provides an opportunity for you to offer any input towards our parish's future life and mission. All responses to the survey are confidential.

There will be copies of the survey in our churches during December for any parishioners to fill in with their personal thoughts on our future together as one full parish. If there are not enough copies, we will supply more next week. Please have your surveys back to the parish office by 31st December. You may just like to hand them to Father Yacub or Father Norvin after Mass or put in an envelope marked "Parish Office – Amalgamation Survey and place on one of the collection plates at Mass.

We appreciate you taking time to fill these in for us. Many thanks, Father Yacub

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.

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 chaplains 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.

2025 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

There are only a few 2025 Columban Calendars still available. If you need one, they are in the Piety Stalls for \$10.00 each. They do make a lovely Christmas gift if you have forgotten someone.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney that 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 equiries@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.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind everyone to dress modestly when attending church. Modesty helps create a respectful and reverent atmosphere that honours our shared space for worship. Please avoid clothing that is too short or revealing, such as low-cut or crop tops, shorts, or skirts more suited for the gym or beach.

Additionally, we ask that men please remove their hats before entering the church. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

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: Graeme Lawford, Denis Hickey, Giacomo Zanardo and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mushtaq Barkat, George Masih, William Quirk, Clare Lyons, Colin Berry, Mary Nohra, Nello Faraone, Miriam Shields, John Bridges, Harold Seers, Michael Rogers, Audrey Bran, Edward Noble and Elias Boutros.

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

"Be patient and work generously in the service of our Divine Lord." (3.3.1898)

