

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 A - 4 & 5 FEBRUARY 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>Is 58:7-10</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 2:1-5</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 5:13-16</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 111:4-9

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. *R/*



The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news:
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. *R/*



With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Presentation was on Thursday, 2nd February. **This Sunday, 5th February**, at the 9am Masses at Bexley & Arncliffe and 10.30am Mass at Rockdale children will be given a special blessing in honour of the feast day.

FR NORVIN ON LEAVE

Father Norvin will be going on leave following this Sunday's Masses. We wish him a safe trip and hope he comes back to us much refreshed and renewed.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 22nd February.

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.00am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



ASH WEDNESDAY

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

These are located at the doors of each of our Churches. It is requested you give at least one week's notice if you wish the name of a deceased loved one to be mentioned at a particular Mass.

N.B. Please do not give coin donations, notes only.

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

PROJECT COMPASSION

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February. The Project Compassion envelopes are available for collection this weekend at all Masses. Please take a set home and return it each week by placing it in one of the collection plates each weekend. Alternatively, you may like to take a money box. This Lent, let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves. One of the great traditions in Lent is to give-up something we enjoy. The money normally spent on this enjoyment could be given to Project Compassion as a means of linking your alms-giving with your Lenten sacrifice and penance.



LENTEN COMPANION

With Lent approaching, the Archdiocese has given the parishes a small booklet as a guide to the Lenten season. The booklet is titled: "Spirit and Truth; The power of Christ revealed" and we have placed copies to each of our churches. The guide is based on the Gospels for the Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday. There are questions to encourage prayer and sharing about the Gospels so you may like to gather a few friends and create a small group for a weekly discussion.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. 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. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

ADVANCE NOTICE – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 3rd March is the annual World Day of Prayer and this year it will be held in St Joseph's Church as part of the rotation of our local Christian Churches. The service starts at 10:30am. This will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. All parishioners are most welcome to attend this ecumenical service. Please gather some friends and bring them along too. More information to come.

YOUNG CATECHIST PROGRAM: SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) is giving a wonderful opportunity to young adults to obtain a \$6000 subsidy to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal from 1-6 August 2023. You need to volunteer as a catechist helping Catholic children in public schools learn more about their faith to qualify for the program. Read more about the program and apply online here: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/ycp/> Applications close on 5 February.

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 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.

BECOME A CATECHIST OR HELPER IN 2023

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. We ask if you would share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2023. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

Our parish State Schools are desperate for some new catechist's or assistants to help out in the schools as several have either retired or are unable to carry on for the time being. If you can help, even for one hour a week, please speak with Fr Yacub or the Catechist Coordinators: Maree Ross (Rockdale/Arncliffe), 0428 103 758 or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469.

N.B. Catechist Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, 26th February at the 10.30am Mass at St Josephs.

LIMITED STOCK OF SPECIAL VOTIVE CANDLES

Only Arncliffe and Bexley still have these candles available if you wish to purchase one. 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 the Piety Stalls.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS CONTINENTAL STAGE

The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Download prayer resources, read the document and access the submission portal at:

www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Elizabeth Tabish: Playing the Apostle to the Apostles
- The face on the Shroud. Author to speak.
- Gender dysphoria. Sensitivity and fidelity
- Giving young marriages strong foundations
- The Cardinal who loved Lebanon
- A Bible that's beautiful.

Next weekend 11 & 12 February the Catholic Weekly will include a special commemorative magazine devoted to remembering Cardinal George Pell.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Aranata Leilua

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Ron Harden, Fr Jim Fowler, Bernadette Comber, Elizabeth Maher, Giacomo Brancato, Teresa Vitturino, Euphemia Vella, Angeliki Kouvelis, Dora Kennedy, Maraid Wilson, Matthew Purtell, Justina, Viliam & Carl Kovac.

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

"Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot, be silent." 15.11.1878

