

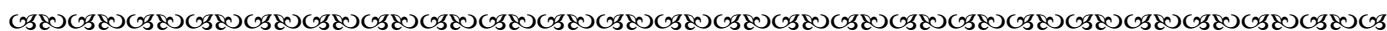
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - YEAR C - 1 & 2 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	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>Mal 3:1-4</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Heb 2:14-18</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 2:22-40</i>		

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 23:7-10

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! *R/*

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. *R/*



O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! *R/*

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people, Israel.

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.

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.

WELCOME TO THE 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Welcome back to those of you who have been away during the Christmas and January holiday period. We hope you are all ready for another year of learning and teaching. We extend a special welcome, to the families and school staff who are new to our parish schools. Have a wonderful 2025!

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 5 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

ARTES CHRISTI CHAMBER CHOIR PRESENTS SACRED MUSIC FOR LENT

Experience the profound journey of Christ's passion through masterworks including Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Bruckner's Christus Factus Est, and Byrd's Miserere Meus. This Lenten concert invites listeners on a musical pilgrimage from darkness to light, from suffering to hope. Join us **Saturday, March 8**, 7:30 – 9:00pm at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, 3 Thomas Street, Lewisham. Tickets: Adult \$35 | Concession \$25 | Family \$75. Scan the QR Code to the link or use the website for bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CXXHA>

THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC MISSION

Thank you for holding last year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. On behalf of Catholic Mission, I would appreciate you thanking all your parishioners for their generosity which is going towards supporting the Church in Mongolia and House of Mercy. Thanks to their kindness, people like Chuluunbaatar will have access to the support they need to help them get back on their feet. The total amount raised from your parishes was \$2720.90. Danielle Carson for Catholic Mission.

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.

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

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 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.

THE POWER OF PRAYER RETREAT

Next Saturday, 8th February from 8.30am – 12.30pm there will be a retreat in St Joseph's Church with Fr John Iacono, an Italian priest from Sydney. Included will be Adoration, Confession, a talk and a Healing Mass. All welcome. For further information, please contact 0413 010 672, 0400 821 909 or 0403 165 459.

CALLED AND GIFTED DISCERNMENT PROCESS

If you're wondering how God is calling you to serve Him, the Called & Gifted Discernment Process is for you! This Process is designed to help Christians identify and nurture their spiritual gifts (charisms), both to represent Christ and to be a channel of God's goodness for others. Commences **Tuesday, 25 February**. Limited places. Register at gomakedisciples.org.au/called-gifted-discernment-process.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Amparo Araullo, Sr Annette O'Connor RSC and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Frank Bendeich, Fr Jim Fowler, Fr Ron Harden, Fr Tiziano Martellozzo, Elizabeth Maher, Patricia Mayhew, Ross Hili, Elena Carrabs, Lona Bastic, Kristopher Deeb, Renato Del Vecchio, Giacomo Brancato, Mary Manwaring, Mary Gatt, Carmen Cuschieri, Dora Kennedy and Ivan Sekulic.

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

"Act prudently and humbly at the same time." 9.9.1875

