

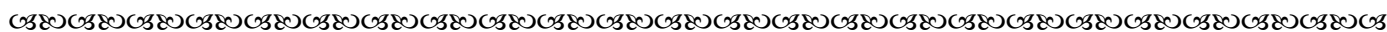
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B - 27 & 28 JANUARY 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>)	9.00am
Sunday Masses		10.30am 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	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>Deut 18:15-20</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 7:32-35</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mk 1:21-28</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. *R/*

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people
who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. *R/*

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

A Requiem Mass will be held this coming **Wednesday, 31st January** at 11.00am in St Gabriel's Church for the late Patricia Wilkinson Please keep her family in your prayers at this time.

APPLICATIONS FOR ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Parishioners interested in applying for membership of St Mary MacKillop's Parish Finance Committee (PFC) are invited to submit a written application. Applications are to be one A4 page, or less, and outline why you are interested in joining the Committee and what strengths and experience you would bring to PFC deliberations.

While the Committee aims for an even balance of Arncliffe and Rockdale representatives; of women and men; and a range of ages, PFC members will primarily be selected on the basis of ability, experience and commitment.

The PFC meets of an evening at the Parish Office. Meetings last between two and three hours. There are usually four to six meetings each year.

Applications must be received at the Parish Office by **9am, Monday 19th February**. Applications can be emailed to admin@mmrc.org.au or placed in the Office letterbox at 13 Parker Street, Rockdale. Late applications will not be considered. Applicants will be advised, in writing, of the outcome of the selection process. The decision of the Parish Priest will be final.

Fr Yacub Barkat P.P.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Next Friday, 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Therefore, **next Sunday, 4th February**, we will have a blessing of the children at the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's Church. Please bring your children or grandchildren to the Mass for the special blessing.

CATECHIST SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 4th February, is Catechist Sunday. All catechists from the Parishes of St Gabriel's Bexley and St Mary MacKillop's Rockdale City are invited to attend the **10.30am Mass at St Josephs** on this day. There will be presentation of certificates to long-serving Catechists after Mass. A special invitation is extended to families whose children attend our public schools. All welcome.

BECOME A CATECHIST OR HELPER IN 2024

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. We are asking if you would share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in February. 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>

Please speak with Fr Yacub or email the parish office and your email will be forwarded to either Maree Ross (Rockdale, Bexley & Arncliffe public schools) or Laura Argiro (Bexley North public school). A "Working With Children Check" is required for all volunteers.

BAYSIDE CHRISTMAS TREE RETURN PETITION

An online petition has been started by a local resident and I request that all our parishioners who are able to, will sign this to bring back Christmas Trees to the local area as a symbol for all recognise at Christmas time.

"Dear Bayside Community,

This year, our traditional Bayside Council Christmas trees were replaced as they passed their use by date, leaving a void in our Community Christmas spirit. A 'Bauble' replaced the Christmas Tree at Brighton-Le-Sands and Mascot, while Ramsgate Beach was replaced with Nothing!

The community have expressed their extreme disappointment to Bayside Council, Councillors and the Mayor!

Councillor Paul Sedrak and Mayor Bill Saravinovski are committed to bring back the beloved and cherished Christmas Tree tradition, while increasing Christmas decorations around our town centres! But they need our support through this Petition, which they will present at the next Council meeting!

Our Christmas Trees are more than just decorations; they symbolise unity, joy, and community spirit. Let's show our strength in numbers!"

I urge you to please sign this petition, share it with your family and friends, and let us 'Bring Back Christmas Trees to Bayside'! Fr Yacub

<http://bit.ly/3TW1Q7U>

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"Let us love one another." 14.12.1890



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.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 14th 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



CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

We kindly remind you to dress modestly when attending Church. While our dress code is not as strict as the Vatican's, your cooperation in maintaining a respectful atmosphere during worship is highly appreciated.

Please kindly refrain from wearing attire that is more suitable for the gym or the beach. We kindly ask that you avoid low-cut clothing and belly crop tops. When it comes to pants or skirts, low-cut short pants or skirts are not encouraged. However, slightly above the knee length is acceptable, provided they are decent and uphold a sense of reverence. This is particularly important if you are an Acolyte or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Men and boys are also asked to remove caps and beanies before entering the church in a sign of respect to the Blessed Sacrament.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in upholding a respectful environment during the church services.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. 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.

COVID REMINDER

- Please note that Covid is having a local resurgence and masks are still recommended in churches.
- 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 distancing from others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space before joining the queue.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia Wilkinson

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Frank Bendeich, Fr Tiziano Martellozzo, Lona Bastic, Mary Gatt, Carmen Cuschieri, Elena Carrabs and Kristopher Deeb.

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.