

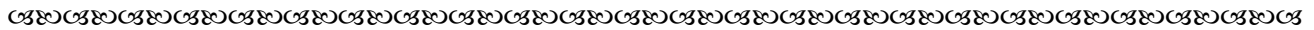
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B - 9 & 10 MARCH 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 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.		
1st Reading: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; 2nd Reading: Eph 2:4-10; Gospel: Jn 3:14-21			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Ps 136:1-6

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.



For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.



Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Lexie Ferguson at St Joseph's and Romeo Hitchcock who will be baptised at St Gabriel's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special occasion.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in our churches, or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



FAMILY MASS AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

Please welcome the children, their families and the staff from St Francis Xavier's Primary at the 9.00am Mass this Sunday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday's during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church. St Joseph's will have the Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm.

Italian Stations of Cross will be held on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. Italian Confessions will be held every Wednesday before and after Italian Stations of the Cross



LENTEN PROGRAM

The Lenten Program continues on Thursday evenings from 6.00 – 7.00pm until Thursday, 21st March.

THANK YOU!

Thank you from the parish to those who donated to the Easter Candles for our three churches this year. Your donations are very much appreciated by all parishioners.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE RECONCILIATIONS & MASSES

First Rite (Individual) **Saturday, 23 March**

8.00am – 8.45am Bexley;
4.00pm – 4.30pm Arncliffe;
5.30pm – 6.00pm Rockdale

Second Rite (Communal celebration)

Tuesday, 26th March at Rockdale - 5.30pm followed by Benediction at 6.30pm and Mass at 7.00pm.

Italian Confessions every Wednesday before and after Italian Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 27th March 3.30 – 4.15pm

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 28th March

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

GOOD FRIDAY 29th March

Stations of the Cross

10.00am Arncliffe –Rockdale – Bexley

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

3.00pm Arncliffe –Rockdale – Bexley

HOLY SATURDAY 30th March

5.00pm Bexley 5.00pm Arncliffe
6.30pm Rockdale

EASTER SUNDAY 31st March

9.00am Mass Arncliffe 9.00am Mass Bexley
9.00am Mass Rockdale (Italian)
10.30am Mass Rockdale
5.00pm Mass Bexley

OPEN DAYS IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools Week is officially from **Monday, 4th to Friday, 8th March**, however some of our local Catholic Schools will be open for visits outside that week. If you are considering enrolling your child in Kindergarten in 2025 or Year 7 in 2026 these dates are still to happen.

- **St Gabriel's Primary**, Friday 15th March, 9.15 – 11.00am
- **Marist College Kogarah**, Wednesday 13th March, 3:00-6:00 pm: <https://mckogarah.syd.catholic.edu.au>

ANNUAL SYDNEY ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS

Bishop Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus warmly invites everyone to join the celebration of St Patrick's Feast Day with a Mass on **Monday, 18th March**, in St Mary's Cathedral at 10.00am.

All welcome.

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.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Hollywood A-lister Mark Wahlberg spotted at St Mary's Cathedral
- Cumberland Council bans drag queen story time
- Melkite youth lead Lenten fundraiser for war-torn families
- Conscientious objection played down in ACT dying law report
- Gender report shows Catholic workplaces nurture women

COVID REMINDER

- Please note that Covid is still all around us and masks are 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: Paul Chappell, Pat Daley, Stephen Jackson, Ceaser Tasselli and Giorgio Festa.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Thompson, Alice Lavulo, Patricia Parkinson, Claude Lucas, Ernest Camps, Rosa Zumbo, Benedetta La Vite, Angelo Vaccaro, Rita Young, Flora Rapisardi, Filippo Vicino, Ricardo Damisel, Andres Rodrigues, Giovanni Bottos, Dianne Demosthenous, Carrado Marcelo, Marguireite & Joe De Battista.

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 love one another." 14.12.1890

