

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)

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C - 15 & 16 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 Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>) 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>Jer 17:5-8</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 15:12, 16-20</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 6:17, 20-26</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 1:1-4.6

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked, nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law, day and night. *R/*

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. *R/*

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind; for the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. *R/*



**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S ROOF RESTORATION
YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS**

Since the severe storm and heavy rain in July 2022, one of our churches in our twinned parishes, St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe, is finally set to begin its long-awaited roof restoration next week. This marks the first phase in a series of restoration projects for our heritage-listed church. After the roof, we will focus on restoring the stained-glass windows and the internal paintings.

Every contribution, big or small, will make a meaningful difference in helping us cover the \$500,000 cost of the roof restoration. Your support ensures that our church remains a place of worship that continues to serve our community and preserves its place in history.

- To make supporting easier, donations can be made via: Tap & Go machines at:
 - Left side of the altar at Arncliffe Church**
 - Front foyer at Rockdale Church**, next to the piety stall.
 - Bpoint on our website (mmrc.org.au) under Support the Parish – Pay/Donate to Rockdale City Parish
 - Bill Code: Other
 - Purpose of Payment: Arncliffe Restoration Appeal
- We are deeply grateful for your generosity, support, and love for our church. Thank you for helping us restore and preserve this treasured part of our community.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
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.

BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Thomas Brown who will be baptised at St Gabriel's. We also welcome his family and friends who join him on this special day.



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 10 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

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.

BAYSIDE ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

On **Friday, 28th February**, all parishioners are invited to attend St Joseph's Rockdale to join with the Bayside Christian Alliance in a joint prayer service. This includes all local denominations in the Bayside area. Please be here by at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Gather some family and friends and join the service. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards. All welcome!

NEW BISHOP FOR SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE

Pope Francis has appointed Fr Tony Percy, currently the parish priest of St Gregory's parish, Queanbeyan, as the next auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Fr Percy, 62, was born in Sydney but relocated to Cooma with his family soon after. He was ordained in 1990 and served in the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese. He was the rector of the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush from 2009-2014. Fr Percy's episcopal consecration will be on Friday, 2 May at St Mary's Cathedral.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Last weekend we were visited at Mass by Sr Elizabeth and Sr Helena. Thank you to those parishioners who gave generously. If any parishioners we not able to give a donation then but would like to give here, are their details to donate by EFT transfer.

Account: Little Sisters of the Poor Aged Care Ltd
BSB: 082360

A/C #: 840663843

Their address is also, 70 Market St, Randwick NSW 2031. If you would like a tax deduction, please email them at: fundraising.syd.lsp.org.au or phone: 9398 9166



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Country theme for 2025 - Cook Islands

The World Day of Prayer on **Friday, 7th March**, is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women aim to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions. The day is celebrated by women and men each year in over 170 countries. The service will start at **10:30am at the Salvation Army, 432 West Botany St, Rockdale** followed by light refreshments, finishing at about 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

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: Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ruby Newton, Barrie Fisher and Marguerite DeBattista.

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

"Let not your crosses make you unhappy." 28.2.1890

