

# 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)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 25 & 26 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](http://www.mmrc.org.au)

**Email:** [admin@mmrc.org.au](mailto: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
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> <b>Sunday Masses</b>	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
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday ( <i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 5.30pm</i> ) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday ( <i>Benediction at 8.45am</i> )
<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	4.00 – 4.30pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month	5.30 – 6.00pm 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month	8.00 – 8.40am Saturday
<b>BAPTISMS</b>	10.00am 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Lev 19:1-2.17-18</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>1 Cor 3:16-23</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 5:38-48</i>			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. *R/*

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. *R/*

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. *R/*

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. *R/*



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**



### FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2023

**All Catholic children currently in Year 3 or above** who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the public schools in our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation this year. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening **this coming Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**, at **7.00pm** in St Joseph's Parish Hall, entry via Parker St, Rockdale.

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting. If you have a child attending a public school we ask that you look for a letter in the bags.

The children will attend four classes on Sunday mornings **commencing on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**. The classes will be held in either the St Gabriel's or St Joseph's Parish Halls. At the first class you are asked to bring a **printed copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate**. This is only for children Baptised outside our parishes of Bexley, Rockdale and Arncliffe.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross will begin this coming **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. There will be Stations of the Cross at 6.00pm at St Francis Xavier's. At 7.00pm there will be Stations of the Cross in St Joseph's Church followed by Mass at 7.30pm.



### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old, and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, she joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.



### Please donate to Project Compassion

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

### CATECHIST SUNDAY

Welcome to Catechist Sunday which will be celebrated today at the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's. Today we warmly welcome parents and students from our local public schools; Arncliffe Public School, Arncliffe West Infants, Bexley Public School, Bexley North Public School, and Rockdale Public School.

Following Mass everyone is welcome for morning tea in the hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Families to meet and chat with their child's Special Religious Education Teacher (SRE Catechist).

Our Parishes would like to invite and welcome new volunteers to join this very important mission of sharing the faith with the students. Scripture Classes are only for half an hour per week. No experience is necessary as training, workbooks and support will be provided.

For further information contact Maree Ross (Arncliffe, Rockdale) 0428 103 758 or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469. Catholic Scripture information regarding **Special Religious Education in Public Schools** and curriculum overview is available via the website: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org>

Following the Rite of Commitment and Commissioning of Catechists, Fr Yacub will lead the Congregation to respond as below:

#### Fr Yacub:

*Those who stand before us have accepted the responsibility of being Catechists to our Parish Children in our public schools. As a Parish Community, let us now pledge our support in commissioning them to go forth as Catechists.*

#### Congregation:

*As members of this Parish, we accept your commitment as Catechists for our Parish children in public schools, and pledge our support to you, as we ask God to bless you for this mission.*

### ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"What a Father we have in God – what a lover in Jesus Christ." 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.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**This coming Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** is the annual World Day of Prayer to be held in St Joseph's Church as part of the rotation of our local Christian Churches. The service starts at 10:30am and the country theme this year will be Taiwan. 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. Limited parking available on the tennis court in Parker St.

### PARISH SCHOOLS OPEN DAYS

Our local primary and high schools are holding Open Afternoons to enable parents and potential students the opportunity to view the schools and facilities prior to enrolment. The three primary schools are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2024 and the high schools are taking student enrolments (currently in Year 5) for entry in Year 7 in 2025.

These are the details for the schools in our parish area.

- Bethany College Hurstville – **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March** from 3.30 – 6.30pm. **Enrolling for Year 7, 2025**
- St Gabriel's Bexley – **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March** from 9.15 – 10.30am
- St Joseph's Rockdale – **Tuesday 14 March** from 3:30 – 5.00pm
- Marist College Kogarah – **Wednesday, 15 March** from 3.00 – 6.00pm. **Enrolling for Year 7, 2025**
- St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe – **TWO Wednesdays 15<sup>th</sup> March AND 22<sup>nd</sup> March** from 5.00 – 6:30pm.

### HEALING RECOLLECTION

Jesus Light of the World Communities have invited Fr Rey Sentillas, MI to their group on **Saturday, 11 March** in St Joseph's Parish Hall Rockdale from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (including Mass). Entry via Parker St. Booking essential at <https://www.trybooking.com/CFURP> Enquiries: Helen - 0433455114 or Ida – 0424 267 500

### 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 and to wait until there is space before joining.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Mariarosa Cucinotta

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Umberto Cicchiello, Antonio Meola, Colleen Euston, Giuseppe Valenti, Margaret Goodwin, Rita Young, Ellen Russell, Antonio Ferreira, Doris Hayes, Francesco Natoli, Adam Streater and Sr Alphonsis rsm.

**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**