

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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 10 & 11 DECEMBER 2022

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 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
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: <i>Is 11:1-10</i> ; 2nd Reading: <i>Rom 15:4-9</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 3:1-12</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 145:7-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *R/*

It is the Lord, who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *R/*

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *R/*



LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

3rd Sunday of Advent

[Sign of the Cross]

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

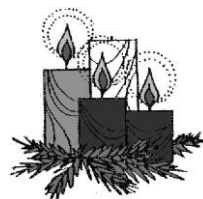
All: Who made heaven and earth.

[The Rose candle is lit]

Priest: Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.

All: Lord, make us one in the Joy of Christ
today and for ever. Amen.

[Opening Prayer]



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!



HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAYS

As the school year draws to its close this coming week,
Fr Norvin and I wish all the staff, catechists, students and
their families of our local Catholic and State schools a
very safe and restful holiday. May Christmas and the New
Year be a time filled with peace, joy and love. *Fr Yacub*

FUNERAL

A Funeral Mass for the Late Grace Ajaka will be held this
Monday morning, 12th December at 10.30am in St
Joseph's Church. Please keep the Ajaka family in your
prayers at this sad time. May Grace Rest in Peace, Amen.

BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Eleena Alawaththa who
will be baptised at St Joseph's. We also welcome her
family and friends who join her on her special day.



COMBINED FAMILY/SCHOOLS MASS

This Sunday the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's will be a combined St Joseph's and Marist College Family Mass for students and families. A Sausage Sizzle will follow the Mass. Children from St Joseph's School will sing Christmas Carols. **Please note that the school grounds will be locked for vehicle access. Parking will be available on the tennis court in Parker St.** All welcome. ☺

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Arncliffe Saturday, 17th December – 4.00pm
Bexley Saturday 17th December – 8.00am
Rockdale Saturday 17th December – 5.30pm
Rockdale (Italian) – Wednesday, 21st December 10am

MASSES

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24th December

Arncliffe 5.00pm
Rockdale 6.30pm
Bexley 6.30pm

Midnight Mass, Saturday/Sunday morning

Arncliffe: 12.00 Midnight (Carols at 11.30pm)

Christmas Day, Sunday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am
Bexley 9.00am
Rockdale 9.00am Italian
Rockdale 10.30am
Bexley 5.00pm

New Year's Eve/New Year's Day

Saturday, 31st/Sunday 1st January

As per normal weekend Mass schedule.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm Friday, 23rd December until 9.00am Tuesday, 2nd January.** If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email and this will be replied to after 3rd January.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

A parish pilgrimage is planned for **27 April to 9 May 2023.** Fr Yacub will be leading the group and would love to have some parishioners join him on the journey. They will be travelling to Rome and the Holy Land. Cost is from \$3,830.00 per person/twin share **excluding flights and some meals.** We must know numbers by **Tuesday 3 January 2023** for the Pilgrimage to go ahead. **Please respond by email to admin@mmrc.org.au**

RCIA SPONSORS REQUESTED

We still require two sponsors for RCIA candidates, one from St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe and one from St Joseph's Rockdale to assist them through the program. If you would be willing to accompany this person on their journey to becoming a Catholic, please contact the parish office on 9567 1588. The commitment would mean attending a lesson with the candidate and RCIA team each Tuesday night for a few months.

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Get your 2023 Calendars before they are sold out. They are available for \$10.00 in our Piety Stalls. Religious Christmas cards are also available in the Piety Stalls.

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.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Come along to St Mary's Cathedral forecourt until **25 December** and join the festivities. They will begin at 7pm with Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities and live entertainment for the children. The signature light show of Christmas art will be projected onto the cathedral from 8:30pm. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has announced that proceeds raised at this year's Christmas at the Cathedral event will go directly towards providing relief and recovery to the victims of the NSW flood disaster. Large parts of regional NSW have been hit by severe flooding since September, with thousands of people left homeless and many businesses forced to close. Online donations are welcome for the Archbishop's Flood Appeal via the Our Faith, Our Works website here: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/flood-appeal/>



LIMITED STOCK OF SPECIAL VOTIVE CANDLES

The Parish has purchased a few more of special votive candles as many people missed out. They are designed for use at home as a tribute to a loved one, or holy devotion. They are on sale now for \$35 in our Piety Stalls. They glow continuously for 300 days, and 2 x Alkaline size D batteries are included with the purchase.

A CHORAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2022

This special concert in St Mary's Cathedral features St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Sinfonia Australis **this coming Friday 16 December.** There are two concerts at 11am and 7pm. Book now at on 9220 0481 or website: www.cathedralchoir.sydney/accc

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, especially over the Christmas period 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. Please wait until there is space and distance before joining the queue.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Grace Ajaka

ANNIVERSARIES: Edmond Leslie, Scholastica Corraya, Elizabeth McBrearty, Armando Exposto, Rocco Domine, Amparo Bahena, Doris Falzon, Tom Richards, Edith Scott and Kazimierz Iwanowski,

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 show this love in our acts bearing with one another, forgiving and forgetting." 12.12.1890

