

# 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)

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT - YEAR C - 4 & 5 DECEMBER 2021

**Parish Priest** – Fr Yacub Barkat

**Assistant Priest** – Fr William Chow



**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 calling 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 Zeina Chalich  
**St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley:** 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	9.00am	9.00am ( <i>Italian</i> )	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		10.30am 6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i> )	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.		
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Baruch 5:1-9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Gospel: Lk 3:1-6</i>			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 125

**The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. *R/*

The heathens themselves said:  
'What marvels the Lord worked for them?'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us?  
Indeed we were glad. *R/*

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. *R/*

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. *R/*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
**Alleluia!**



### LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*[Sign of the Cross]*

**Priest:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
**All:** Who made heaven and earth.

*[The second candle is lit]*

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, Light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. Amen.

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

*[Opening Prayer]*



### BAPTISMS

This weekend at St Francis Xavier's we welcome Grace Morgan and Zacariah Dela Cruz. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on their special day.



### CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL

Many thanks are extended to all those who were able to contribute to the Charitable Work's Fund Appeal held last weekend. If you still wish to contribute, please place the envelopes in a collection plate at the church.



### RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- We now have a **two-square metre rule**. **Please do not sit in seats that are not available.**
- Families may sit together, but if people do not belong in the same household, they must observe physical distancing of 1.5 metres.
- Vaccination is recommended for all parishioners.
- **Masks are still compulsory for attending Mass.** Only the priest and reader (when reading) are exempt.
- Congregational singing is not allowed yet unless all are fully vaccinated, and masks must be worn.
- The sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended.
- **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 go from the nearest seat to the Priest or Acolyte but please wait until there is space to join the queue before standing up.**
- ANYONE who enters the church must give their names and contact details before entering the church. These records will be kept for four weeks or use the QR code at the doors.
- Only one door will be opened to enable accurate recording of those attending.
- Hands must be sanitised when entering the church.
- Please do not come to the church if you are unwell.
- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs in our parish, every person who has registered as an attendee of the parish will be notified of the diagnosis and the date and time the infected person attended the church. No other details will be provided.
- **Weddings and Funerals** The same density limit (1 person per 2sqm) applies to weddings and funerals **for the fully vaccinated**. If people are not fully vaccinated, there remains an 11-person limit for a wedding ceremony (the couple and celebrant; 2 witnesses; someone to record the service; and 5 guests), and a 10-person limit for funerals (not including the celebrant and others 'required for the conduct' of the funeral service). **The onus rests on the relevant couple or funeral directors** to ensure that these requirements are complied with;

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL LADIES CONFERENCE

The ladies are holding their Christmas Luncheon at Bexley RSL Club this coming **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December** at Midday. If any parishioners would like to join them please phone Rita on 0458 500 072 by this Monday to book. All welcome.

### JESSE TREE AT ST FRANCIS XAVIERS

At St Francis Xavier's, under the Jesse Tree, gift tags are available for you to purchase a gift for someone less fortunate. Perhaps you might care to take one and bring the gift next weekend and place it under the Tree. All gifts **need to be back by Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December** at the very latest to allow time for the St Vincent de Paul volunteers to distribute them for Christmas.

### COLUMBAN CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS

The 2022 Columban Calendars now available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each and Religious Christmas cards at extremely affordable prices.

### A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary places her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

### LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Bring your family to St Mary's Cathedral in the evening from **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December to Christmas Day** and enjoy the lights of Christmas on the front façade of the Cathedral. Visiting choirs will sing Carols from 7:30pm (most nights) and the light show will run continuously from 8.30pm to 11pm every evening. Masks are mandatory, with QR code entry and proof of vaccination.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

#### RECONCILIATION

Bexley	Saturday, 18th December 8.00 – 9.00am
Arncliffe	Saturday, 18th December 4.00 – 4.45pm
Rockdale	Saturday, 18th December 5.00 – 6.00pm
Rockdale	Tuesday, 21st December 6.00 - 6.30pm

#### MASSES

#### Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th December

**N.B. No morning Mass at Arncliffe today.**

Bexley	5.00pm
Arncliffe	5.00pm
Rockdale	6.30pm

#### Midnight Mass, Friday night/Saturday morning

Rockdale	12.00am Midnight
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#### Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th December

Arncliffe	9.00am
Bexley	9.00am
Rockdale	9.00am (Italian)
Rockdale	10.30am
Rockdale	11.30am – Extra Mass this year
Bexley	5.00pm – Extra Mass this year

#### Boxing Day, Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December

**N.B. No Vigil Masses at either Arncliffe or Rockdale for Sunday and NO 5pm Mass at Bexley in the afternoon.**

Bexley 9.00am; Arncliffe 9.00am and Rockdale 10.30am.

#### New Year's Day – Saturday 1st January

Masses as per regular timetable

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

We have a number of parishioners who are suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses, so we ask that you please keep them all in your prayers.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Edmond Leslie, Claude Gilsean, Doris Falzon, Angela Natoli, Edith Scott, Jeremiah Cotter, April Cheung-Baker and Marie Mortimer.

**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 rest in peace.**

### ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

“Be faithful and lose not one opportunity of merit that presents itself to you.” 26.4.1873

