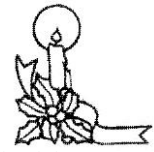


PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YEAR A - 24 & 25 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	11.30am 2 nd Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 rd Sunday of the month
WEDDINGS	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours. Monday to Saturday by appointment.		

CHRISTMAS VIGIL AND MIDNIGHT MASS

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 95:1-3, 11-13

Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!



CHRISTMAS DAY

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 97:1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of
God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth. **Alleluia!**

WISHING YOU A HOLY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Fr Yacub, Fr Norvin, Fr Brendan, Fr Adriano and Sr Marie White and the parish staff, wish to extend to you and your family a very Merry Christmas. May you enjoy a peace-filled and holy time with family and friends and a safe and happy holiday. Thank you for the greetings and well-wishes received during this festive season.

CHRISTMAS 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.

CHRISTMAS WELCOME TO FR BRENDAN

We are grateful to Fr Brendan in helping out with a couple of the Masses this Christmas time. Please give him a big welcome if you see him. ☺

SISTER SOPHIA BARKAT

Next week Father Yacub's sister, Sr Sophia Barkat will be visiting from Pakistan for a few weeks. Please make her welcome if you see her around our parishes. ☺

REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.

FATHER YACUB'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas is here. After almost three years of Covid 19 threat and lockdowns, we can now celebrate in the open. For sure, this celebration will be more meaningful, amazing and wonderful because of the experience of limited, restricted celebration due to the pandemic. The celebration might have been altered, but the signs and meaning of Christmas will remain unchanged. The essence of Christmas two thousand and twenty-two years ago to date continues to lead us: God through His Son will always walk with us, will always journey with us. God's Word became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ in whom we can experience the fullness of life.

In October 2022, Pope Francis and the Synod of Bishops convened in the Vatican City and tackled the topic on the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." As a synodal church, our parish is called to "walk together, participate, dialogue and listen to one another."

Let us celebrate this Christmas in the spirit of Synodality. Let us keep in mind that God is journeying with us. When Christ was born, the shepherds and magi journeyed together although they came from different places. They listened to the angel and were guided by a star and was exactly brought to the manger where Christ was born. At Christmas, the Word was made flesh. Christ came and dwelt among us. He was not alone; he was born to a family of Mary and Joseph. He became one of us to commune with us. His journeying with us is an example of our walking with our brothers and sisters in their joys and sorrows, in their struggles and happiness. In the spirit of Synodality, we become a witness to God's mission beginning with Christ's birth in Bethlehem.

May the joy and peace of Christmas remain with us throughout the year. May the Holy Spirit enliven us and inspire us to tell and retell our stories of our encounter with the Lord like the shepherds and Magi who witness the story of the first Christmas. May we be willing to see, listen and be guided by the Holy Spirit so we can truly be a synodal church who share and encounter our joys and hopes with one another.

Have a happy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!
Fr. Yacub Barkat

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

As is customary, Christmas Offering envelopes are on the pews of the Churches. The money from the Christmas Offerings is remitted to a central fund caring for the needs of priests and deacons of the Archdiocese. We have many priests that work in special areas, such as the seminary, chaplaincies, military and other agencies as well as in parishes that are unable to financially meet the needs of their priests. Our ongoing prayerful and practical support of the clergy in the Archdiocese is very much appreciated.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **until 9.00am Tuesday, 3rd 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 BULLETIN

There will be no bulletin published next week due to the office closure.

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.

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**

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.

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Get your 2023 Calendars before they are sold out, only \$10.00 in our Piety Stalls. If you still need Religious Christmas cards there are some available in our Piety Stalls.

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.

MASS TO HONOUR EILEEN O'CONNOR

The annual Mass for Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor to mark the anniversary of the death of Eileen O'Connor will be held in St Brigid's Church, Brook St, Coogee on Tuesday 10 January at 11am with the Principal Celebrant, Emeritus Bishop Terence Brady. Eileen is on the path to becoming Australia's next saint.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gennaro Vitale, Lucia Briguglio and Paule Zemancek.

ANNIVERSARIES: Harold Seers, Frederick Higham, Audrey Bran, Mary Nohra, John Bridges, Edward Noble, Lawrence Mack, Michael Rogers, Thomas Yeats, Danielle Yepes, Mark Maric, Leonora de Guzman, Jack Kocina and Liberato Natale.

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 MACILLOP'S QUOTE

"He knows our hearts and much that is hidden from his creatures is well known to him." 23.12.1871

