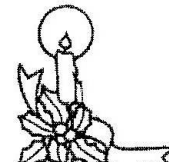


PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

CHRISTMAS and HOLY FAMILY - 24/25 & 26 DECEMBER 2021

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat



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 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
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.		
1 st Reading: <i>Micah 5:1-4</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Heb 10:5-10</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 1:39-45</i>			

CHRISTMAS VIGIL

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 88:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed;
the Saviour of the world will be our King.

Alleluia!



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!



FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY FAMILY - SUNDAY

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!



WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Fr Yacub, Fr Brendan, Fr Peter, Fr Adriano and Sr Marie White 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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will reopen at **9.00am Monday, 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, this will be replied to after 3rd January.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS & CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have ordered extra copies of the 2022 Columban Calendars, and they are available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. They make a lovely Christmas gift. There is also a good selection of Religious Christmas cards at extremely affordable prices.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

As is customary, Christmas Offering envelopes are available in each 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 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.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Check-ins are still required for places of worship, funerals or memorial services.
- Masks will be strongly encouraged in places where you cannot socially distance, **i.e., places of worship.**
- Singing is now permitted.
- The sign of peace will be at your own discretion.
- **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 entering the church must give their details before entering the church. You can use the Service NSW QR code at the door or sign the parish sheets.
- 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.

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.

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

These are located at the doors of each of our Churches. It is always helpful to **at least one week's notice** if you wish the name of a deceased loved one to be mentioned at a certain time.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

MASSES

Midnight Mass, Friday night/Saturday morning

Rockdale 12.00am Midnight

Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am (Italian)

Rockdale 10.30am

Roekdale 11.30am — Extra Mass this year

(This Mass has now been cancelled)

Bexley 5.00pm — Extra Mass this year

Saturday, 25 and Sunday, 26th December

N.B. No Vigil Masses at either Arncliffe or Rockdale for Sunday Mass.

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

NO 5pm Mass at Bexley in the afternoon.

New Year's Day – Saturday 1st January

Masses as per regular timetable.

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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It is almost two years now since the pandemic crisis started and a lot of growing pains and unexpected changes collectively and individually have happened. It is undeniably true that months and days were tough, and I am sure each one will be happy to move on. How shall we celebrate Christmas 2021 when we are still preoccupied with rules and guidelines on wearing face masks, observe social distancing, wash hands frequently get vaccinated and other rules imposed for mutual, protection and safety. Should we allow our Christmas celebration to be dampened by fears of Covid 19 pandemic?

If there is one thing that this crisis is teaching us is the essence of simplicity. Remember the first Christmas story. Our Lord and Saviour was born in a manger with only his mother and father. His guests were a shepherd, a few animals and the three magi. This is a heart-warming reminder that in the complexity of life, amidst fear and confusion that the pandemic brought us, there is only one basic truth: the real reason for our celebration is that God is with us; has always been and will always be with us. The Gospel of John reminds us ... "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God..." This is Christmas - the Word became flesh for you and for me. Jesus was born for you and for me. He is the eternal Light of the world.

Light shines brightest in darkness. The heart of the Christmas story reveals that Christ did not come into our world at high noon. He came when the world was dark, and the people were seemingly lost in the dark. He entered our lives in darkness, in our fears and confusion - but now He is showing us the way, the way to light, leading us towards love and showing us how to overcome our fears, shadows and confusions. Christmas teaches us "that even when things seem dark, we can trust the everlasting Light."

Let us spread Hope, Peace and Love not only during this Christmas season but throughout our lives.

Have a joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Fr Yacub

ANNIVERSARIES: Frederick Higham, Mary Nohra, Harold Seers, Audrey Bran, Edward Noble, Contetta Totta and Pauline McGann.

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

"Lying upon the straw of Bethlehem, Jesus does not only preach humility, but gives a perfect example of obedience and charity". 1897

