



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

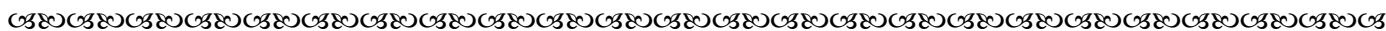
(Looking after the Churches of St Gabriel's, Bexley, St Joseph's, Rockdale, and St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B - 16 & 17 DECEMBER 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

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	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am (<i>Italian</i>)	9.00am
Sunday Masses		10.30am 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	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
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
WEDDINGS	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 st Reading: <i>Is 61:1-2, 10-11</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Thess 5:16-24</i> ; Gospel: <i>Jn 1:6-8, 19-28</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Luke 1:46-50.53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. *R/*



The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. *R/*

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **until 9.00am Thursday, 4th 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 4th January.

PARISH BULLETIN

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is currently conducting its annual Christmas Appeal to bring some cheer to those in need. Envelopes may be found on the pews in our churches. **This weekend 16 & 17th December** there will be a third collection at Mass for this appeal after Holy Communion. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible but please fill in all the details, including your phone #.

PRINCIPAL CHANGE AT ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Rachelle Dopson as the Principal of St Joseph's Catholic School, Rockdale from the beginning of 2024 and look forward to welcoming her next year. As a parish, we sincerely thank Ms Carolyn Yeats for her wisdom, dedication and educational leadership at St Joseph's since 2015. We wish her well as the newly appointed Principal of St Patrick's Primary at Kogarah.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Happy and safe holiday wishes are extended to all our school children and staff as they finish-up the year.

GABBIES SEWING ANGELS

2023 was the most successful year to date for Gabbies!! Amazingly they produced and distributed 10,006 articles. Many thanks to our parishioners for your support. Pat Will

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Rockdale (Italian/English)

Wednesday, 20th December 10-10.45am

Bexley Saturday 23rd December – 8.00am

Arncliffe Saturday 23rd December – 4.00pm

Rockdale Saturday 23rd December – 5.30pm

MASSES

Christmas Eve, Sunday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm

“Midnight Mass”, Sunday night

Rockdale 11.00pm (Carols from 10.30pm)

(N.B. Note the time change!!)

Christmas Day, Monday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am Italian

Rockdale 10.30am

NO 5.00pm Mass at Bexley on Christmas Day



CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS AT ST JOSEPH’S

Are you attending Mass at St Joseph’s on Christmas Eve?
Would your child like to take part in the nativity play?
There is a role for everyone!

There will then be a rehearsal on Saturday 23 December at 10.00 am for about 1 hour. A parent volunteer (Danielle Ni Chroinin) will meet the children during the school holidays no teachers will be onsite. Parents must stay with their children.

This is not a big production, and the main costumes will be provided on the night. If you can’t make it to any rehearsals, you are still welcome to come along on Christmas Eve dressed as a shepherd or an angel – there is always room for a few more!

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 chaplains 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.

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY’S CATHEDRAL

Come along to St Mary’s Cathedral forecourt from **until 25 December** and join the festivities. Live entertainment will begin at 6.30pm. The light show of Christmas art will be projected onto the cathedral from 8:30pm.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. You can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

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

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.

2024 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

There are only a few 2024 Columban Calendars still available. If you want one, they are in the Piety Stalls for \$10.00 each. These do make a lovely Christmas gift.

CAROLS FOR PEACE

Join Archbishop Fisher and a Choir & Orchestra of 70 musicians for this very special ceremony "Carols for Peace" at 7pm on Friday 22 December, in St Mary's Cathedral. **Entry By Donation:** All funds raised support Aid to the Church in Need & its charity works in The Holy Land & Ukraine. Tickets are strictly limited. Bookings essential: www.carolsforpeace.org

AN EVENING WITH CHRISTOPHER WEST

“Male and female he created them”

Following Dr Christopher West’s *Made for More* presentation earlier this year, he returns to Sydney to dive deeper with families to rediscover authentic masculinity and femininity. This not-to-be-missed one-night presentation will provide a hopeful and redemptive understanding of our creation's original and glorious meaning as male and female. This will be held on Saturday, 20 January at All Saints Liverpool Catholic Parish, 48 George Street, Liverpool from 7:00pm - 9:30pm. (Doors open at 6:30pm) Cost is \$20 general admission and \$15 concession/student. For more information on the evening and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://sydneycatholic.org/summer-series/>.

COVID REMINDER

- Masks are still 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 distancing from others who are in the line. Please wait until there is space before joining the queue.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK IN OUR PARISHES

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Betty McNaughton, Catherine Oliver and Sr Rose McDermott.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Tom Fennell, William Quirk, Nello Faraone, William Moore, Marianne & Giuseppe Acquaro, James & Susana D’Cruze and Shaun Padua.

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 MACKILLOPS QUOTE

“I knew God would take care of all and make everything right in the end.” 17.7.1892

