

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

(St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe, St Gabriel's, Bexley & St Joseph's, Rockdale)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 7 & 8 FEBRUARY 2026

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 Thursday: 9am to 1pm (please phone before coming in.)

SCHOOLS: St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe: 9567 5389 – Principal: Ms Debbie Heckenberg

St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley: 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins

St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale: 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Rachelle Dopson

	ARNCLIFFE	ROCKDALE	BEXLEY
WEEKEND MASSES Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am (<i>Italian</i>) 10.30am 12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>) 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>)
CONFESIONS	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: *Is 58:7-10*; 2nd Reading: *1 Cor 2:1-5*; Gospel: *Mt 5:13-16*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 111:4-9

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:

he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,

he conducts his affairs with honour. *R/*



The just man will never waver:

he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news:

with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. *R/*

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;

his justice stands firm for ever.

His head will be raised in glory. *R/*

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

The Mass schedule for Wednesday, 18th February is:

8.00am – Marist College, Kogarah

9.00am – St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe - School Mass

9.00am – St Joseph's Rockdale - School Mass

10.30am – St Gabriel's Bexley - School Mass



7.00pm – St Joseph's Rockdale

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

the man who follows me

will have the light of life.

Alleluia!



FUNERAL

A funeral service will be held for the late Christine Sheehy this coming **Tuesday, 10th February** at 10.00am at St Gabriel's Church. Please keep her husband Stephen and their family in your prayers at this sad time.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish Office is now closed on Fridays.

The updated office hours will be Monday to Thursday,

9.00am – 1.00pm. For urgent pastoral matters or

emergencies please phone 9567 1558 and choose “option 3” on the message to speak with Father Yacub if he is

available. Alternatively, please email the office at:

admin@mmrc.org.au

LENTEN RETREAT DAY

As we approach the Season of Lent, join us for a day retreat where we can deepen on the meaning of almsgiving, fasting and prayer that touches our heart and leads us to change. "Even Now, Return to Me", will be held **next Saturday, February 14** from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at St Bernadette's in Carlton. This will be guided by the Verbum Dei Missionaries. For more information please contact verbumdeisdney@gmail.com or call Maria 0402 452 342

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2026

All Catholic baptised children currently in Year 4 at school or over who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the public schools within our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation in Term 1 and their First Holy Communion in Term 2. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening on **Thursday, 26th February**, in St Joseph's Hall at 7.00pm for the parents of the children.

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting as the Registration Form for the programme will be handed out on the night. There will also be some general information about the First Holy Communion program on the night.

You are asked to bring a copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate to the meeting.

There is ample parking in the school grounds off Parker St, Rockdale.

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Join with women at the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Women's Lenten Retreat - a full day of prayer and reflection led by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia and hosted by the Catholic Women's Network and Sydney Catholic Schools. To accommodate the growing interest in this beautiful retreat day, we are offering the same retreat on two days. To be held on either **Saturday, 28 February OR Saturday, 14 March** at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney from 9.00am – 4.00pm. The cost is \$50. To book, visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIBPT>

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are still some 2026 Columban Calendars available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. If they have run out and you don't didn't get one, there are a couple in the parish office. They assist the Columban Missionaries in meeting the needs of the poor. I would like to request you to please put a Catholic calendar in your home. ☺

THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU – LENTEN COMPANION 2026

The beautiful Season of Lent is approaching. Let us make the most of this precious time to gather in our parishes, communities, and homes to reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, using the Lenten companion: This is My Body, given for you. Lenten Companions will be available from next **Sunday, 15 February**. Alternatively, you can download the Lenten Companion and Leader's Resource at: gomakedisciples.org.au/resources/

Optional online Workshop: Many people—including those who do not go to Mass—would welcome an opportunity to pray with others; they just need someone to invite them! The Parish Renewal Team will host online workshops for those who want to lead others in prayer using the Lenten Companion. If you would like to invite others to pray with you but need some guidance, ideas, or encouragement, join one of our online workshops. Register for a workshop: <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Coroner blasts government over modern slavery death
- Archbishop Fisher formalises Sydney's synod agenda
- Waverley parish installs St Daniamo cross, a labour of love
- Obituary: Fr Paul Glynn SM, missionary, author, peacemaker
- Feature: Women find a haven at The Farm
- Comment: A perverse push for an end to infant baptism

EUCARISTIC ADORATION TRAINING SESSIONS

The Liturgy Office will be offering a series of Eucharistic Adoration Training Sessions from March to May. These sessions will explore the theological, liturgical and musical elements of Eucharistic Adoration.

Attendance is compulsory for all acolytes and is strongly recommended for choir members. Jubilate Deo will lead the singing component of each session. Other parishioners with an interest in Eucharistic Adoration are warmly invited to attend.

The final hour of each session will comprise of a Holy Hour, with seminarians from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd serving, and Jubilate Deo leading the sung responses. Registration is compulsory at: bit.ly/45JlskK

The nearest venues to our parish are:

- St Patricks, Sutherland – Friday 6 March, 6-9pm
- St Benedicts, Broadway – Sat. 14 March, 10am-1pm
- St Thomas Mores, Brighton Le Sands – Saturday 16 May, 10am-1pm

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

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: Christine Sheehy, Emma Drassech and Sr Crocifissa.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bernadette Comber, Elizabeth Maher, Des Worboys Rosina Giardullo, Raquel Goncalves, Giacomo Brancato, Teresa Vitturino and Euphemia Vella.

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 COACKILLOP'S QUOTE

“The cause of right will triumph in the end”. 26.9.1884

