

# ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 28 FEBRUARY & 1 MARCH 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](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 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
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b>	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	9.00am	9.00am (Italian) 10.30am	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		12.00pm (First Sunday only Urdu) 6.00pm (Third Sunday only Filipino)	5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday (Devotions, Exposition, Benediction & Rosary from 5.30pm) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday (Benediction at 8.45am)
<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.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Gen 12:1-4</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>2 Tim 1:8-10</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 17:1-9</i>			

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 32:4-5.18-20.22

**Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. *R/*

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. *R/*

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. *R/*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ!**

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Glory and praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ!**



## HOLY HOUR THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday afternoon, our parish will be holding a Holy Hour in St Joseph's Church from 2.00 – 3.00pm. This has been requested by Archbishop Anthony Fisher for all parishes in the Archdiocese to pray for the Eucharistic Congress that will take place in Sydney in 2028. Please come along and pray with us.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sisilia, a 13-year-old from remote northern Tanzania, faced immense challenges including poverty, unsafe water and poor sanitation. After her father passed away, she supported her mother by fetching water three times a day, often through unsafe and exhausting conditions that left little time for study. With support from the A+ Successor Project, clean water taps have been installed at her school and her village, easing her burden and improving health across the community. Through SWASH (School Water Sanitation and Hygiene) Club, Sisilia has become a leader, teaching her peers and parents about hygiene and sanitation. With the time saved from collecting water, Sisilia hopes to fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from our parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)



## ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"God loves and blesses children." 27.9.1895

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday during Lent at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church and at 6.30pm in St Joseph's followed by Mass at 7.00pm.



## OPEN DAYS AT OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Our local high schools are taking enrolments for Year 7, 2028 for children who are currently in Year 5. The primary schools are enrolling for Kindergarten 2027. These are the times when our local schools are open for you to have a look and ask questions about enrolments.

**Bethany College:** Tuesday, 3 March 3.30 – 6.30pm

**St Josephs:** Tuesday 3 March, 9.30 – 11.00am  
and 3.30 – 5.00pm

**St Francis Xavier's:** Tuesday 3 March, 5:00 – 6:30pm  
Thursday 5 March, 5:00 – 6:30pm

**Marist College:** Wednesday 4 March, 3:00 – 6:00pm

Follow this link to register for attendance at the school you wish to visit:

<https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/open-days>

## EUCCHARISTIC 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](http://bit.ly/45JlSkK)

The nearest venues to our parish are:

- St Patricks, Sutherland – **Friday 6 March, 6-9pm**
- St Thomas Mores, Brighton Le Sands – Saturday 16 May, 10am-1pm

## WALZ STREET CLOSURE

Bayside Council is closing Walz Street for Ramadan. Vehicles will not be permitted to park in Walz Street between 4.30pm to 8.30pm and no vehicle will be allowed to enter or exit Walz Street **from 1.00pm on Saturday 14th March** and 2am on Sunday morning.

Parishioners driving to the 6.30pm Mass are to park in the school playground via Railway and Parker Streets. You will need to tell the security guards you are going to the church so they can open the barriers to give you access to Parker St. Please note that the church/school grounds will be **locked up at 7.30pm promptly** following Mass and any cars left in these areas will have to remain until the gates are opened for the Sunday morning 9.00am Mass. **Please do not plan to attend the festival and to park your car in the school grounds after Mass.**

## BAPTISMS

This Sunday we welcome Allyse & Liam Lam and Alessio & Sofia Likhterov who will be baptised at St Francis Xavier's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on their special day.



## EUCCHARIST28 PRAYER

The Archdiocese has requested that the following prayer is to be recited at Masses until the end of the Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Sydney in September 2028. Therefore, we will recite it at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful in place of our regular Prayer for Australia.

## EUCCHARIST28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ, Amen

## THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Almost 460 converts gather for Rite of Election
- Faith in the Year of the Fire Horse
- Mixed reactions to return of 'ISIS brides'
- Spiritual classics to read this Lent
- Column: The path of prayer

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### Country theme for 2026 - Nigeria

The World Day of Prayer **next Friday, 6th March**, is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women aim to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions. The day is celebrated by women and men each year in over 170 countries. The service this year has been prepared by the committee of Nigeria with the theme "*I will give you rest: Come*". The service will start at 10:30am at the **Salvation Army, 432 West Botany St, Rockdale** followed by light refreshments, finishing at about 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

## DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD PROCESSION

A Marian Procession led by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation will take place on **Sunday 22 March** beginning with 10:30 am Mass in St Mary's Cathedral and followed at 12:00 Noon by the Angelus and a Marian Procession. At 1:30 pm Fervourino will be held in St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, visit: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/archdiocesan-events/day-of-the-unborn-child/>

## 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](mailto: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.

## RECENTLY DECEASED: Adriano Goles.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Beryl Breen, Patricia Parkinson, Benedetta La Vite, Giorgio Festa, Anastacia Tarongoy, Deceased Passionist Sisters, Emmanuel Said, Samuel Goles, Michael McDermott, Olive Williams and Ignacio Nunes.

**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.**