

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)

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5 & 6 FEBRUARY 2022

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 – Acting 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 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>Is 6:1-8</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 15:1-11</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 5:1-11</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 137:1-5,7-8

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
 you have heard the words of my mouth.
 Before the angels I will bless you.
 I will adore before your holy temple. *R/*

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
 which excel all we ever knew of you.
 On the day I called, you answered;
 you increased the strength of my soul. *R/*

All earth's kings shall thank you
 when they hear the words of your mouth.
 They shall sing of the Lord's ways.
 'How great is the glory of the Lord!' *R/*

You stretch out your hand and save me,
 your hand will do all things for me.
 Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
 discard not the work of your hands. *R/*



CATECHIST SUNDAY

Today is Catechist Sunday. During the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's, the State School Catechists from our twinned-parishes will be commissioned for this year. Being a catechist is a most rewarding ministry. As Baptised Christians, each one of us is called to proclaim the Good News in our daily lives: in thought, word and action. This is especially true in the anti-religious climate of our times.

We thank all those involved in the Catechetical Ministry in our parishes, through being a catechist, an assistant catechist or a prayer partner. These wonderful people represent us all as they share the love of Jesus and the importance of faith with the young ones in State Schools.

We are again desperately short of catechists to teach the Catholic faith to children in our Parish State Schools and we require assistance from within our Parishes. The days vary at different schools but if you would like to join in this ministry, male or female and have an hour or two to spare each week, please speak with one of the Catechists after the Mass or contact our Catechist Coordinators: Lee Kendrick 0422 257 331 (Rockdale/Arncliffe) or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469.

To find out more about the work catechists do, please visit: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
 and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!



RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Check-ins are required for places of worship, funerals or memorial services.
- Masks are mandatory in places where you cannot socially distance, **i.e., places of worship.**
- **Singing is not permitted.**
- The sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended.
- **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, even if you do not think you have Covid and just a sore throat or a simple cold.

APPEAL FOR TONGA

The Tongan Catholic Chaplaincy is coordinating an appeal to help families left displaced by last month's tsunami disaster. Find out more about the appeal including donation details on this link:
<https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/tonga/>

PARISH SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UPDATE

All parish volunteers who are Acolytes, Readers, Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers and Choir members, are required to update their status by attending a training session. Unfortunately, due to current COVID-19 concerns the Safeguarding Office has decided to present all training for the first six months of 2022 either online or via zoom. The most important thing is to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our communities and we can do this by presenting via zoom or online.

Volunteers can register for the new Refresher Training via this link <https://forms.gle/XuQFsRsvq3BYtXqT9> (which is a different link from the other online training registrations). Just a reminder that volunteers only need to complete the Refresher Training if they have completed the Induction Training a minimum of three years ago.

Volunteer Refresher training is available online or via Zoom. Below are the available dates for the Zoom Refresher Training, volunteers will simply need to register their attendance by emailing:
safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org

Date	Time
Tuesday, 22 February	9.00am – 10.00am
Friday, 11 March	3.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday, 31 March	9.00am – 10.00am
Wednesday, 6 April	4.00pm – 5.00pm
Monday, 16 May	3.00pm – 4.00pm

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.

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.

HOW THE PARISH USES YOUR DONATIONS – DID YOU KNOW?

First Collection

Money from the first collection supports the needs of our priests. In addition, money from Easter and Christmas offerings, wedding and baptism offerings are added to the first collection.

Our parish currently collects more than is needed for our priests, so the surplus is sent to a central fund that supports other parishes and priestly ministries.

Second Collection

This collection includes donations through the planned giving envelopes, as well as the cash placed on the plate. The parish must work within its own budget and is unable to draw money for expenses from any source other than its own parish income.

These funds are used to cover all expenses and support our pastoral activities. Expenses include administration, insurance, utilities, staff salaries, priests' car expenses, and the repair and maintenance of all buildings (churches, halls, presbyteries, convent and office).

The funds are also used to cover our shortfall in the yearly target set by the Archdiocese for the Charitable Works Fund (CWF). As our parish does not meet the CWF target; funds are directed to the shortfall each year from the Second Collections.

Special Collections

The Parish does not retain any money from these collections. E.g., CWF, Vinnies, Priests Retirement etc.

Thank You.

Your ongoing generosity and support of the Parish is gratefully acknowledged. Everyone's circumstances are different. Please know that you are not expected to give any more than is reasonable.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Marie Wilmott, Josephine Azzopardi and Sochin Dessai.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary-Imelda Leslie, Dora Kennedy, Elizabeth Maher, Bernadette Comber, John Briscoe-Hough, Giacomo Brancato, Teresa Vitturino, Euphemia Vella, Angeliki Kouvelis, Marid Wilson, Matthew Purtell, Peter Grant. John, Agustin, Margarita & Felipe Ragasa and Carl, Justina & Viliam Kovac.

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

“Charity of heart thinks no ill of anyone, is ever on the alert to prevent unkind thoughts, loves to make others happy, and will not be stayed from uttering a kind word, or performing a kind act.”

