

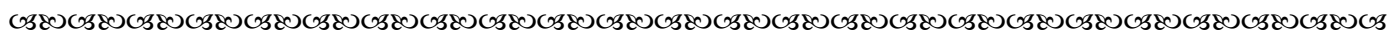
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B - 24 & 25 FEBRUARY 2024

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 Rachelle Dopson

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 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.		
1st Reading: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; 2nd Reading: Rom 8:31-34; Gospel: Mk 9:2-10			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Ps 115:10.15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. *R/*

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. *R/*

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. *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!



LENTEN PROGRAM

Father Norvin is leading a Lenten Program in St Joseph's Hall this **Thursday evening from 6.00 – 7.00pm**. This will continue until Thursday, 21st March. Numbers are not limited, and all are most welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in our churches, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer will be held **this coming Friday, 1st March** in St Thomas More Catholic Church, Brighton-le-Sands at 10.30am. The service this year has been prepared by the committee for Palestine with the theme "I beg of you...bear with one another in love".

N.B. *This service was prepared well before the present situation in Palestine.*

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all our parishioners to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Light refreshments will follow the service.

FAMILY MASS AT ST JOSEPH'S

The 10.30 Mass at St Joseph's next Sunday, 3rd March will be a Family Mass. All families welcome.

LITURGY TRAINING

Father Yacub has asked all current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) to attend the training sessions that the Liturgy Office is providing at St Thomas More Parish Brighton Le Sands on **Thursdays, 29th February and 7th and 14th March** from 6:00pm - 9:00pm. All three sessions must be attended. This is especially important if you did not attend the training here at Rockdale in 2022. If there are any parishioners who would like to become a EMHC, you must do this training. To enrol, please contact the Liturgy Office ASAP at: liturgyassistant@sydneycatholic.org or Ph. 9307 8360

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday's during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm in St Francis Xavier's Church. St Joseph's will have the Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm.

Italian Stations of Cross will be held on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. Italian Confessions will be held every Wednesday before and after Italian Stations of the Cross



OPEN DAYS IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools Week is officially from **Monday, 4th to Friday, 8th March**. Our local Catholic Schools will be open for visits if you are considering enrolling your child in Kindergarten in 2025 or Year 7 in 2026.

- **St Francis Xavier's Primary**, Tuesday 27th February 5-6.30pm
Thursday 29th February 5-6.30pm
- **St Joseph's Primary**, Tuesday, 5th March 9.30 – 11am and 3.30 – 5.00pm.
- **St Gabriel's Primary**, Friday 15th March, 9.15 – 11.00am
- **Bethany College Hurstville**, Tuesday 5th March, 3.30 – 6:30 pm <https://bethanyhurstville.syd.catholic.edu.au>
- **Marist College Kogarah**, Wednesday 13th March, 3:00-6:00 pm: <https://mckogarah.syd.catholic.edu.au>

FAMILY EDUCATOR POSITION AT ST FRANCIS XAVIERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

A position within St Francis Xavier's Primary School has become available as a Family Educator. This position is responsible for building and maintaining welcoming school environments whilst ensuring sound, respectful relationships exist between the school, parents/families and the parish. The myriad of quality initiatives, events and activities created and implemented by the Family Educator contribute to vibrant faith communities within our system of Catholic schools.

The Family Educator will primarily work in partnership with a range of stakeholders: the principal, parents, the parish priest, parish staff, the Religious Education Coordinator and a range of church agencies and organisations.

As a significant contributor to the religious leadership of the school within the Catholic school system, the Family Educator is required to be adaptable, creative and able to customise their work to meet the specific needs of the community.

For more information and to apply, please follow this link <https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au/positions-vacant/family-educator-arncliffe>

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.

CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

We kindly remind you to dress modestly when attending Church. While our dress code is not as strict as the Vatican's, your cooperation in maintaining a respectful atmosphere during worship is highly appreciated.

Please kindly refrain from wearing attire that is more suitable for the gym or the beach. We kindly ask that you avoid low-cut clothing and belly crop tops. When it comes to pants or skirts, low-cut short pants or skirts are not encouraged. However, slightly above the knee length is acceptable, provided they are decent and uphold a sense of reverence. This is particularly important if you are an Acolyte or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

Men and boys are also asked to remove caps and beanies before entering the church in a sign of respect to the Blessed Sacrament.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in upholding a respectful environment during the church services.

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- HSC Achievers and School Open Days Supplements
- New Catholics prepare to join God's family
- Young entrepreneurs ask God for help in new ventures
- PNG excited for papal visit, but is Pope Francis coming?

COVID REMINDER

- Please note that Covid is still all around us and masks are recommended in churches.
- 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: Carmel Cavanagh, Renato del Vecchio, Sr Antoinette Walsh, RSJ.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Morley, Umberto Cicchiello, Antonio Meola, Colleen Euston, Giuseppe Valenti, Margaret Goodwin, Ellen Russell, Antonio Ferreira, Francesco Natoli, Adam Streater, Maria-Teresa Mazzaferro and Giuseppe Guarnieri

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 MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"God will carry you safely through every struggle."
20.11.1870

