

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)

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 26 & 27 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>1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Cor 15:45-49</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 6:27-38</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 91:2-3.13-16
Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. *R/*

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. *R/*

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!



BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Arabella Kelly who will be baptised at St Joseph's on Sunday. We also welcome her family and friends who join her on this special occasion.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 2nd March.

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.10am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

Today is Project Compassion Sunday. Project Compassion Envelopes are available for collection this weekend at all Masses. Please take a set home and return it each week by placing it in the special box provided in each of the churches. This Lent let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves. One of the great traditions in Lent is to give-up something we enjoy. The money normally spent on this enjoyment could be given to Project Compassion as a means of linking your almsgiving with your Lenten sacrifice and penance.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held in both St Joseph's Church and St Francis Xavier's Church, on each Friday at 7.00pm during Lent commencing on **Friday 11th March**.

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Masks are still recommended in **churches**.
- **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 wait until there is space to join the queue before standing up.**
- 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 which is highly indicative of the Omicron variation.

LENTEN PENANCE

In this season of Lent, we seek to experience the mercy of God the Father, and to practice it in our daily lives. But first we must experience our need for mercy, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above all, and to love our fellow men and women as ourselves. This is why the Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the merciful love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent.

In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance. Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call “the social dimension of sin”. The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore, during Lent and on every Friday throughout the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence; in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of The Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

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.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, and Trinity Sunday unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2022

All Catholic children currently in Year 3 or above who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the State schools in our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation this year. Accordingly, there will be a Parent Information Evening **on Thursday, 10th March**, via ZOOM at **7.00pm for the parents or guardians of the children**.

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting. The program and ZOOM information will be given to each of our parish schools beforehand but if you have a child attending a State School we ask that you email the parish office admin@mmrc.org.au (please do not phone) and we will email the program and ZOOM information to you directly. Unfortunately, we do not know at this time when the Catechist Classes will recommence in the State Schools for 2022.

The children will attend four classes on Sunday mornings **commencing on Sunday, 13th March**. At the first class you are asked to bring a **copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate**. This is only for children Baptised outside our twinned parishes of Bexley, Rockdale and Arncliffe.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Country theme for 2022 – United Kingdom

All parishioners are invited to the World Day of Prayer **this coming Friday, 4th March**. This is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions. Women and men celebrate the day each year in over 170 countries. The service will start at **10:30am at the Uniting Church, 181 Rocky Point Rd, Ramsgate**. Masks must be worn.

MARKET DAY FUNDRAISER AT PEAKHURST

St Joseph's Riverwood are having a stall at the Foodies Market **next Saturday 5 March** from 8am to 3pm in the Church carpark in Isaac St, Peakhurst. All proceeds from the St Joseph's table/s will go towards the Church's Roof Fund.

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Morley, Imelda Wong, Salvatore Arcamone, John McCarthy and Marina Beeby.

ANNIVERSARIES: Antonio Meola, Benedetta La Vite, Angelo Vaccaro, Rita Young, Ellen Russell, Doris Hayes, Antonio Ferreira, Francesco Natoli, Olive Williams, Claude and Frank Lucas and Venancia and Jose Realin.

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.