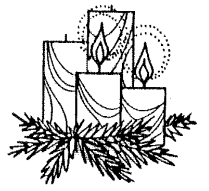




PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and  
ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C - 7 & 8 DECEMBER 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](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 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
<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	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
	Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.		
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Baruch 5:1-9</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Phil 1:4-6, 8-11</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 3:1-6</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 125

The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. R/

The heathens themselves said:

'What marvels the Lord worked for them?'

What marvels the Lord worked for us?

Indeed we were glad. R/

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. R/

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves. R/



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!



CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

RECONCILIATIONS

Rockdale (Italian) Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 10am -10.45am

Bexley Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December – 8.00am – 8.30am

Arncliffe Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December – 4.00pm – 4.30pm

Rockdale Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December – 5.30pm – 6pm

MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Tuesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm

Arncliffe 5.00pm

Rockdale 6.30pm



"Midnight Mass", Tuesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm

(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am

Bexley 9.00am

Rockdale 9.00am Italian

Rockdale 10.30am

Bexley 5.00pm

LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Bring your family to St Mary's Cathedral one evening up to Christmas Day and enjoy the lights of Christmas on the front façade of the Cathedral. Visiting choirs will sing Carols from 7:30pm and the light show will run continuously from 8.30pm to midnight every evening.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

As promised by Father Yacub last Christmas, there will be Christmas Carols sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm**. Bayside Council will be erecting a large Christmas Tree in the mall so please gather your family and friends and come along to support our parishioners and show the real joy of the Christmas Season with fellow local residents. **Everyone is welcome!**



## COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR AMALGAMATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP'S PARISH, ROCKDALE CITY & ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, BEXLEY

My dear parishioners, after many years of sharing in the blessings of faith and community between St Mary's MacKillop, Rockdale City & St Gabriel, Bexley, it is proposed that our communities become one parish to help us bring about the mission of Christ in our local area.

I value your contribution greatly, so it is my hope that this survey provides an opportunity for you to offer any input towards our parish's future life and mission. All responses to the survey are confidential.

There will be copies of the survey in our churches during December for any parishioners to fill in with their personal thoughts on our future together as one full parish. If there are not enough copies, we will supply more next week. Please have your surveys back to the parish office by 31<sup>st</sup> December. You may just like to hand them to Father Yacub or Father Norvin after Mass or put in an envelope marked "Parish Office – Amalgamation Survey and place on one of the collection plates at Mass.

We appreciate you taking time to fill these in for us. Many thanks, Father Yacub

## 'BE OPEN TO THE WORD' ADVENT RETREAT

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Join the Advent retreat hosted by Carlton parish and lead by Tania Rimac from the Parish Renewal Team, with the theme Be Open to the Word This retreat will be an opportunity to pause and reflect on the witness of Mary, our Mother, and contemplate her role in Salvation History for all mankind, and what it means for us today. This will be held **this coming Tuesday 10 December** at 6pm – 9pm in St Bernadette Parish, 10 Argyle St, Carlton. All are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring a friend. Light refreshments will be available before and after the retreat.

## ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR LUNCHEON

The Archdiocese is currently organising a special luncheon for former choir boys of St Mary's Cathedral, scheduled to take place on **Sunday, 2nd March 2025**. This will also give ex choristers an opportunity to join a new Choristers Alumni Network and be kept abreast of exciting new developments, such as the launch of the Girls' Choir next year. If any parishioners are former choir boys of St Mary's Cathedral, or maybe even have friends or family members who are ex Choristers, please advise them of this date to save for their diaries next year.

Register now:

Scan the QR code or visit

[www.ourfaithourworks.org/pf](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/pf)

Tony Maricic 0422 099 576



## 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.

## ST GABRIEL'S CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

All children are invited to participate in the Gospel dramatisation at the St Gabriel's Family Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve, December 24. Please register your child's interest here: <https://forms.gle/wLjGryGbN8sfZGkj9> All children who wish to have a speaking part must attend the practice on Sunday, December 22 at 9:45am. Please contact Monique Cohen on 0412071609 with any queries.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM PALMS!

Are you looking to give something really special this year? Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you! Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here! And yes, your purchase assists the amazing communities overseas. Happy shopping! Just scan the QR or go to: [palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop](http://palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop)



## PARISH SAFEGUARDING

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney that 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 [equiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:equiries@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.

## CHURCH SERVICE DRESS CODE REMINDER

As we enter the summer season, we kindly remind everyone to dress modestly when attending church. Modesty helps create a respectful and reverent atmosphere that honours our shared space for worship. Please avoid clothing that is too short or revealing, such as low-cut or crop tops, shorts, or skirts more suited for the gym or beach.

Additionally, we ask that men please remove their hats before entering the church. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Baby Malakai De Leon and Dorothy Molachino.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Edmond Leslie, Claude Gilsenan and Doris Falzon,

**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

"If we forget, God does not" (6.11.1884)

