

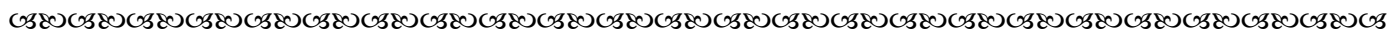
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 26 & 27 AUGUST 2023

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 Carolyn Yeats

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	5.00pm Saturday	6.30pm Saturday	-----
Saturday Vigil	9.00am	9.00am (<i>Italian</i>)	9.00am
Sunday Masses		10.30am 6.00pm (<i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i>)	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 22:19-23</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Rom 11:33-36</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 16:13-20</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – ps. 137:1-3.6.8

**Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

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/*

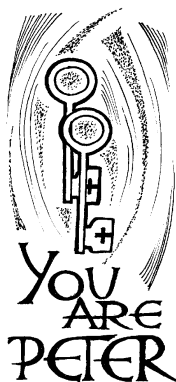
I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I call, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. *R/*

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter,
the rock on which I will build my church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!



RETREAT DAY FOR ST GABRIEL'S / OTHER SCHOOLS CONFIRMATION CLASS

Please welcome the children in Years 5 & 6 at the 9.00am Mass at St Gabriel's. Today is a special day for students from St Gabriel's Primary and the local non-Catholic schools to gather and reflect about what it means to be Confirmed in the Catholic Faith. The Retreat Day for the Confirmation program will continue in the parish hall immediately after the Mass with their final lesson, Mass practice session and lunch. Thank you to the Sacramental team at Bexley for their organisation of this special day.

FAMILY MASS AT ST GABRIEL'S

Please welcome the children, staff and families from St Gabriel's School who are also gathering at the 9.00am Mass for their Term 3 Family Mass today.

CONFIRMATION

Please pray for all the children from our parishes who are completing their final lesson for the Confirmation program this weekend.



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES & RECEIPTS

These are now available from the Parish Office if you have not picked yours up. Please call the office before coming in, on 9567 1558.

REMINDER: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH.

**PRIEST'S RETIREMENT FOUNDATION
PASTORAL APPEAL**

Next weekend, 2nd & 3rd September we will be having the annual appeal for the Priests who are no longer working full-time. When priests move from full-time ministry they need support, so that they are not disadvantaged with respect to housing, living expenses, health care and transport, etc. To provide this support, we need to actively participate to the Retirement Fund, by raising funds through this annual appeal. People continually value our ministry and are keen to support, and your contributions are truly appreciated. Let us be generous as God is with us. Contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting your brother priests, through the Priests' Retirement Foundation. There are special envelopes on the seats this weekend. Please take one home return next weekend with your donation.

FREE TREE MULCH

Recently there were some trees trimmed on the parish property. Father kept the shredded mulch for his gardens but there is still some left. If any parishioners would like to take some, please phone the office 9567 1558 and let us know when you will come to collect it. We are not keeping it on hold for anyone, first to come in gets the first load. You must bring your own bags, shovels and containers as we cannot offer any assistance to you.

SILENT RETREAT

"Speak Lord, I'm Listening," Silent Retreat will be held on September 15-17 in the Carmelite Centre, Varroville. Retreat will be guided with talks given by the Verbum Dei Missionaries, Sr Louise and Maria. Experience the power of listening to God through his Word in this retreat. For more information, please contact us on 0402 452 342 or email: verbumdeisydney@gmail.com

THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Sr Mary Grace becomes a sister for life
- Bishops call for "new engagement" with indigenous Australians
- Theology of the Body course bears fruit
- Fr Flader: Will everyone be saved?
- Michael Walker on our generational wealth transfer p24
- Boarding Schools

CALIX SOCIETY

"We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies". Stay and sober with the Catholic faith and a 12-Step program. Join is in prayer for: total abstinence, spiritual development, and personal sanctification. Do you "thirst" for more? Contact calixsydney@outlook.com or <https://www.calixsociety.org>

ST MICHAEL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The group meets every Thursday night at Mater Dei Catholic Church 1008 King Georges Rd, Blakehurst (Parking – Turn Left at Princes Highway).
6:30 pm Rosary; 7:00 pm Praise and Worship, (Reconciliation); 7:30 pm Talk or Mass or Adoration
DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 3 Time of waiting / Wira Peiris

August 10 HEALING MASS / Fr George Gorzkowski

August 17 If anyone is in Christ he is new creation / Abraham George

August 24 Putting on the armour of God / Ron Maldigri

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.

PARISH WEBSITE: www.mmrc.org.au

Have you visited our parish website yet? The website combines the Mary MacKillop Rockdale City (Arncliffe and Rockdale) and St Gabriel's Bexley. The Parish Bulletin is uploaded each week if you can't get to Mass. You can make secure online payments and donations through the "Support the Parish" page or contact the Parish Office through the "Contact Us" page to make enquiries, Mass offerings or to volunteer your time in any of our Parish ministries.

"TAP & GO" MACHINES IN OUR CHURCHES

Parishioners are asked to give to our parishes via the Tap & Go machines which are located in each of our churches. It is a quick and easy way to donate when people don't bring cash to Mass to put on the collection plates. This money goes directly into the parish account and not sent elsewhere. The benefit for the parish of receiving monies this way is to enable us to receive the money instantly and to allow us to have money available for payment for upkeep of the parishes, the utilities and the facilities. It's an added donation to us and we would love it if you can take more advantage of it. ☺

RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly recommended in churches, as Covid is still very much in our local community.**
- **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: Bernadette Morley and Francesco Campanale.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bob Thomson, Jovie Casuso-Reyes, Noelene Adams, Pierina Crivici, Rocco Lo Russo, Maria D'Ambrosio, Tina Lombardo, Giuseppe Nigro, Aleksander Huber, Michelangelo Todisco, Ondino Brajevich, Albert Ippolito, Daphne Burton, Rose Smith, Mr Stefanoski, Celio, Noni & Antonio Caya, Walter and Bernadette Comber.

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

"Have patience with yourselves when you see that you have failed and patience with others when they seem to have done so" 16.2.1874

