

# 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)

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - YEAR C - 11 & 12 DECEMBER 2021

**Parish Priest** – Fr Yacub Barkat

**Assistant Priest** – Fr William Chow



**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 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 - Principal: Ms Zeina Chalich

**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 ( <i>Italian</i> )	9.00am
<b>Sunday Masses</b>		10.30am 6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i> )	5.00pm
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>	9.00am Wednesday 9.00am Friday	7.00pm Tuesday ( <i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 5.30pm</i> ) 9.00am Thursday	9.00am Monday 9.30am Thursday 9.00am Saturday ( <i>Benediction at 8.45am</i> )
<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>Zeph 3:14-18</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Phil 4:4-7</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 3:10-18</i>			

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Isaiah 12:2-6

**Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Truly God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
He became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. *R/*



Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,  
declare the greatness of his name. *R/*

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *R/*

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*[Sign of the Cross]*



**Priest:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
**All:** Who made heaven and earth.

*[The Rose candle is lit]*

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now.  
Amen.

**All:** Lord, make us one in the Joy of Christ  
today and for ever. Amen.

*[Opening Prayer]*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
**Alleluia!**



**BAPTISMS**

This weekend at St Joseph's we welcome Dominic Jenner. We also welcome his family and friends who join him on his special day.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Dominic Kannan and Kristine Lajkoski who were married on Saturday afternoon at St Francis Xavier's and to Josepha Na and James Taufik who will be married this coming Friday at St Francis Xavier's. May God's blessings be with you all for a lifetime of love and happiness.



### RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- We now have a **two-square metre rule**. **Please do not sit in seats that are not available.**
- Families may sit together, but if people do not belong in the same household, they must observe physical distancing of 1.5 metres.
- Vaccination is recommended for all parishioners.
- **Masks are still compulsory for attending Mass.** Only the priest and reader (when reading) are exempt.
- Congregational singing is not allowed yet unless all are fully vaccinated, and masks must be worn.
- 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 who enters the church must give their names and contact details before entering the church. These records will be kept for four weeks or use the QR code at the doors.
- 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.
- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs in our parish, every person who has registered as an attendee of the parish will be notified of the diagnosis and the date and time the infected person attended the church. No other details will be provided.
- **Weddings and Funerals** The same density limit (1 person per 2sqm) applies to weddings and funerals **for the fully vaccinated**. If people are not fully vaccinated, there remains an 11-person limit for a wedding ceremony (the couple and celebrant; 2 witnesses; someone to record the service; and 5 guests), and a 10-person limit for funerals (not including the celebrant and others 'required for the conduct' of the funeral service). **The onus rests on the relevant couple or funeral directors** to ensure that these requirements are complied with.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December until 9.00am Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January**. This is to allow the office staff some quality time with their families. If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email, this will be replied to after 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM FR YACUB

Next weekend at all Masses, Fr Yacub will give each family a gift of a special pen as a Christmas gift from him. Please only take one per family to use in your home.

### JESSE TREE AT ST FRANCIS XAVIERS

At St Francis Xavier's, under the Jesse Tree, gift tags are available for you to purchase a gift for someone less fortunate. Perhaps you might care to take one and bring **back by NEXT Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December** at the very latest to allow time for the St Vincent de Paul volunteers to distribute them for Christmas.

### A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary places her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

### HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAYS

As the school year draws to a close this coming week, Fr William and I wish all the students, staff and catechists of our local Catholic and State schools a very safe and restful holiday. May Christmas and the New Year be a time filled with peace, joy and love. *Fr Yacub*

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

#### RECONCILIATION

Bexley	Saturday, 18th December 8.00 – 9.00am
Arncliffe	Saturday, 18th December 4.00 – 4.45pm
Rockdale	Saturday, 18th December 5.00 – 6.00pm
Rockdale	Tuesday, 21st December 6.00 - 6.30pm

#### MASSES

#### Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th December

**N.B. No morning Mass at Arncliffe today.**

Bexley	5.00pm
Arncliffe	5.00pm
Rockdale	6.30pm

#### Midnight Mass, Friday night/Saturday morning

Rockdale	12.00am Midnight
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#### Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th December

Arncliffe	9.00am
Bexley	9.00am
Rockdale	9.00am (Italian)
Rockdale	10.30am
Rockdale	11.30am – Extra Mass this year
Bexley	5.00pm – Extra Mass this year

#### Boxing Day, Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December

**N.B. No Vigil Masses at either Arncliffe or Rockdale for Sunday and NO 5pm Mass at Bexley in the afternoon.**

Bexley 9.00am; Arncliffe 9.00am and Rockdale 10.30am.

#### New Year's Day – Saturday 1st January

Masses as per regular timetable

### 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.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Tom Fennell, Tom Richards, Elizabeth McBrearty, Amparo Bahena, Rocco Domine, Scholastica Corraya, Kazimierz Iwanowski, Armando Exposto, Dionne Lustre and Jessica Amedo.

**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

“Take care of yourself and don't work beyond your strength”. 17.3.1901

