

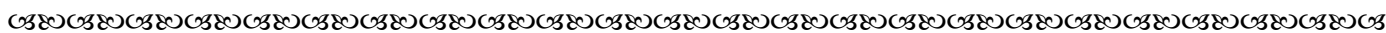
PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C - 8 & 9 MARCH 2025

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 12.00pm (<i>First Sunday only Urdu</i>) 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>Deut 26:4-10</i> ; 2 nd Reading: <i>Rom 10:8-13</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 4:1-13</i> | | | |

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 90:1-2,10-15
Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' *R/*

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. *R/*

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. *R/*

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls, I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. *R/*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet Toefuata'iga from Samoa, Lam from Vietnam and Irene from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



PLEASE DONATE TODAY

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code / online: caritas.org.au/project-compassion / or by calling: 1800 024 413



STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

The Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent. Please come along at 6.00pm to 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 **commencing this Wednesday, 12th March.** Italian Confessions will be held every Wednesday before and after Italian Stations of the Cross.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S ROOF REPLACEMENT: YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a result of the severe storm and heavy rain in July 2022, St Francis Xavier's Church Arncliffe, needs to have the roof replaced. As a heritage-listed church, the replacement requirements are guided by Bayside Council. The roof is the first and major part of a series of restoration projects that have been identified by the Parish Finance Committee for the church. Other matters requiring attention are the stained-glass windows, internal painting, foliage in the brickwork, internal repairs to the tower etc.

Every contribution, big or small, will make a meaningful difference in helping us cover the \$500,000 cost of the roof replacement. Your support ensures that our church remains a place of worship that continues to serve our community and preserves its place in history.

The amount raised so far is \$2195.00. Thank you!

- To make supporting easier, donations can be made via Tap & Go machines at:
 - **Left side of the altar at Arncliffe Church**
 - **Front foyer at Rockdale Church**, next to the piety stall.
- BPoint on our website (mmrc.org.au) under Support the Parish – Pay/Donate to Rockdale City Parish
 - Biller Code: Other
 - Purpose of Payment: Arncliffe Restoration Appeal

FUNERAL

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated **this coming Monday, 10th March** at 9.30am for the late Beryl Breen who is a former long-time parishioner at St Gabriel's. Please keep her family in your prayers at this sad time.

LENTEN REFLECTION AFTERNOON *"Carrying Our Cross Through Lent"*

An afternoon of Lenten reflection has been organised for our parish on **Saturday, 22nd March** in St Joseph's hall and church from 12.30 – 5.30pm. There will be talks, Reconciliation adoration and a Healing Mass. The speakers will be Fr Yacub and Fr Norvin. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Please park in the school grounds off Parker St or other nearby streets. **Please do not park in Walz St. for this event as the street will be closed to traffic from 1.00pm for the Ramadan event. Any parked cars will be towed away.** Also, please do not leave your car in the school grounds after 7.15pm as the gates will be closed overnight.

WALZ STREET CLOSURE

Bayside Council is closing Walz Street for Ramadan in Bayside. Vehicles will not be permitted to park in Walz Street between 4.30pm to 8.30pm and no vehicle will be allowed to enter or exit Walz Street **from 1.00pm on Saturday 22 March** and 2am on Sunday morning.

Parishioners driving to the 6.30pm Mass are to enter the school playground via Railway and Parker Streets. You will need to tell the security guards you are going to the church so they can open the barriers to give you access to Parker St. Please note that the church/school grounds will be **locked up at 7.30pm promptly** following Mass and any cars left in these areas will have to remain until the gates are opened for the Sunday morning 9.00am Mass. Please do not plan to attend the festival and to park your car in the school grounds after Mass.

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.

BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Londyn Vuki who will be baptised at St Joseph's on Sunday. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special occasion.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

Please keep the children from our parish schools in your prayers as they learn more about God's merciful love as preparation to receive the Sacrament of Penance in a few weeks.



ARCHBISHOP'S LENTEN LETTER

There are a few copies of Archbishop Anthony Fisher's Lenten letter in the churches if you would like to take one to read and maybe pass on to a friend.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ENROLMENTS

Our three primary schools and two feeder high schools, Marist College Kogarah and Bethany College, Hurstville, are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2026 and Year 7 2027. As the Open Days have all but ended, please contact the schools directly to apply for your child.

- ✓ **St Gabriel's Bexley** (9502 1932)
- ✓ **St Joseph's Rockdale** (9599 2541)
- ✓ **St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe** (9567 5389)
- ✓ **Bethany College Hurstville** (8566 0711)
- ✓ **Marist College Kogarah** (9587 3211) Open Day for Year 7, 2027 on Wednesday 12 March, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO BERRIMA SHRINE

As our parish's participation in the Jubilee for the Year of Hope, on **Saturday, 5th April** the parish has organised a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy at Penrose Park. A bus will be organised to take parishioners, but others may wish to follow in their own cars. The address is 120 Hanging Rock Road, Sutton Forest. Cost for the day will be approximately \$50 but will be confirmed next weekend. There are clipboards in each church to put your details on if you are interested. You will need to bring your own food and drinks for the day.

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: Rebecca Forwood, Beryl Breen, Ivan Sekulic, Giuseppa Scenci, Stephen Ross and Dorothy Molachino.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Thompson, Alice Lavulo, Claude Lucas, Flora Rapisardi, Ernest Camps, Rosa Zumbo, Ricardo Damisel, Andres Rodrigues, Giovanni Bottos, Dianne Demosthenous, Bernard Villegas, Agustin & Patkin Canoa.

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 WACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"God kept my heart full of trust to make all come right."

30.10.1874

