

ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

(St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe, St Gabriel's, Bexley & St Joseph's, Rockdale)

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 25 & 26 JULY 2026

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Parish Priests – Fr Norvin Dias and Fr Miguel Perez Campos

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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 Thursday: 9am to 1pm (please phone before coming in.)

SCHOOLS: St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe: 9567 5389 – Principal: Ms Debbie Heckenberg

St Gabriel's Primary, Bexley: 9502 1932 - Principal: Ms Catherine Hodgins

St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale: 9599 2541 - Principal: Ms Rachelle Dopson

|                                                                                                                           | ARNCLIFFE                                                                                                                                        | ROCKDALE                                                                                                                                   | BEXLEY                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WEEKEND MASSES</b><br><b>Saturday Vigil</b><br><b>Sunday Masses</b>                                                    | 5.00pm Saturday<br>9.00am                                                                                                                        | 6.30pm Saturday<br>9.00am <i>(Italian)</i> 10.30am<br>12.00pm <i>(First Sunday oly Urdu)</i><br>6.00pm <i>(Third Sunday only Filipino)</i> | -----<br>9.00am<br>5.00pm                                                             |
| <b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>                                                                                                     | 9.00am Wednesday<br>9.00am Friday                                                                                                                | 7.00pm Tuesday <i>(Devotions,<br/>Exposition, Benediction<br/>&amp; Rosary from 5.30pm)</i><br>9.00am Thursday                             | 9.00am Monday<br>9.30am Thursday<br>9.00am Saturday<br><i>(Benediction at 8.45am)</i> |
| <b>CONFESSIONS</b>                                                                                                        | 4.00 – 4.30pm<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                         | 5.30 – 6.00pm<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                   | 8.00 – 8.40am Saturday                                                                |
| <b>BAPTISMS</b>                                                                                                           | 10.00am<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month<br>Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours. | 11.30am<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month                                                                                             | 10.00am<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month                                        |
| <b>WEDDINGS</b>                                                                                                           | Monday to Saturday by appointment.                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <b>1 Kg 3:5, 7-12</b> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <b>Rom 8:28-30</b> ; Gospel: <b>Mt 13:44-52</b> |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – ps. 64:10-14

Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,  
is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth  
means more to me than silver and gold. *R/*

Let your love be ready to console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me  
and I shall live for your law is my delight. *R/*

That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:  
I hate false ways. *R/*

Your will is wonderful indeed;  
therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word  
gives light and teaches the simple. *R/*

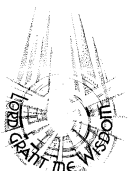


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to the little ones  
the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!



## FATHER NORVIN'S LAST WEEKEND

Father Norvin is leaving our parish after more than four years here. A special con-celebrated Mass will be held at 10.30am **this Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July** and Father Norvin will leave after the Mass. We thank him for all he has done here and wish him well in his new parish. There will be a third collection following Holy Communion to give to Father as a thank you from our parish. You are not expected to give if you gave last weekend.

## REQUIEM MASS

A Requiem Mass will be **held this coming Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> July** in St Joseph's Church at 10.30am for the late Lorenzo Pezzullo. Please keep his family in your prayers. **N.B.** Apologies for the error in last week's bulletin but the date was changed after printing.

## PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

The Planned Giving receipts are now available in your preferred church. Please collect them as soon as possible. Any packets of envelopes that haven't been picked up will be at the parish office. Please contact the staff to pick them up there between Monday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

## MARIAN GARDEN BLESSING AT ST JOSEPH'S

On **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> August**, the new Marian Garden at the front of St Joseph's Church at Rockdale will be blessed by Father Yacub following the 10.30am Mass. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

### CHARITABLE WORKS' FUND (CWF)

**Next weekend, 1 & 2 August** will be the first of three appeals for this financial year for the Charitable Works' Fund. The Archbishop uses the money from these appeals to help fund various pastoral activities within the archdiocese: hospital, gaol and university chaplaincies, the deaf community, the aboriginal community, seminarians preparing for priesthood, CatholicCare and resources for catechists visiting state schools to name just a few. **A third collection for the CWF Appeal will follow after Holy Communion next weekend.**

Each parish is given a quota to fund each appeal. These quotas are determined according to each parish's income and population. If this quota is not met, then the shortfall comes from our parish funds. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, but please make sure you complete the details required on the envelopes provided. Please take home an envelope and return next weekend with your donation. Many thanks for your ongoing support of this important work within the archdiocese.

### WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

The 6th World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is held on the fourth Sunday of July and is connected to the feast days of St Joachim and St Anne. Today we pray especially for our own grandparents and our elderly parishioners.

#### PRAYER FOR THE 6TH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Holy Father Who watches over every person  
watch over me too when I am elderly.  
You have revealed your name to me in Christ,  
and You were not discouraged by my frailties.  
You hold me tenderly in your hands,  
and You caress my lines.  
You will never forget me!

Grant that I may not fear my weakness;  
Help me learn to love it just as You love it.  
Help me learn to listen to it just as You listen to it.  
Help me embrace it just as You have chosen it –  
You who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in  
humility.

May growing old strip away all our pride and all  
division so that we may live these years united in You.  
You will never forget us! (see: Is 49:15)  
Amen.

### UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

Be part of 7 simple and engaging presentations, where you will get to know the Bible, deepen your understanding of the texts, and enrich your faith knowledge and wisdom. Together with the presenter, Charbel Raish, you will unpack the Bible from start to finish, creating a deeper connection to the Scriptures and your faith. These presentations will be held from **this coming Wednesday, 29 July to Wednesday 2 September** at 6.30pm (6.00pm for refreshments & fellowship) at Australian Catholic University, Strathfield - Main Building 600, 25a Barker Rd, Strathfield. The cost is a "donation". Please register to attend via Google Doc at: [bit.ly/4aPx5sP](https://bit.ly/4aPx5sP)

### EUCCHARIST 28 PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ, Amen

### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Sydney mission strengthens healthcare in Zambia
- QLD psychiatrist vindicated over gender treatment concerns
- Parish renewal conference fires up 400 faithful
- Feature: School refusal explained
- Sport: What Spain's victory teaches us about beauty

### CATHOLICCARE SERVICES / HOME CARE SERVICES

CatholicCare Sydney offers a range of services to help you or a loved one remain happy and safe at home for longer. Our qualified and caring team can help you with:

- Domestic assistance
  - Day-to-day tasks like shopping
  - Connecting with others
  - In-home respite care
  - Personal care
  - Health and wellness activities
  - Allied Health & Clinical Support
- To learn more, please call 13 18 19 or visit [catholiccare.org](https://catholiccare.org)

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING

A reminder 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 [enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:enquiries@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 several parishioners who are suffering from various serious illnesses, and we ask that you please keep them all in your prayers.



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Lorenzo Pezzullo and Fe Padilla.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Paulo Taufu, Elisa Gioia, Marie Bates, Susan Cani, Delia Oke and Anna Landi.

**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

"Try to keep God with us by charity of thought, word and act." 15.9.1890

