

# 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)

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD - 8 & 9 JANUARY 2022

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat



**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> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> <b>Sunday Masses</b>	5.00pm Saturday 9.00am	6.30pm Saturday 9.00am ( <i>Italian</i> ) 10.30am 6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only Filipino</i> )	----- 9.00am 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 Please phone the Parish Office to make an enquiry or booking on 9567 1558 during office hours.	11.30am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month	10.00am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	Monday to Saturday by appointment.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Is 40:1-5, 9-11</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7</i> ; Gospel: <i>Lk 3:15-16, 21-22</i>			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 103:1-4,24-25,27-30

**Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent. *R/*

Above the rains you build your dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of the wind,  
you make the winds your messengers  
and flashing fire your servants. *R/*

How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small. *R/*

All of these look to you

to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up:

you open your hand; they have their fill. *R/*

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth. *R/*



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;  
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Alleluia!**



### CHRISTMAS THANKS

I should very much like to thank all those who prepared our three churches and those assisted in any way with liturgies for the celebration of Christmas. Much work goes on behind the scenes and we should be grateful for the generous efforts of so many who arranged flowers, cleaned and decorated the churches, read at the Masses or attended as Acolytes. The congregation and I were most grateful. Unfortunately, the celebrations were dampened by the Covid restrictions with numbers attending well down on previous years, but we still managed to have our celebrations although quite subdued compared to the past.

I would like to give a huge thank you to Fr Brendan who was home for Christmas and assisted me with the Masses over the two holiday weekends. We are most grateful to him. ☺

Thank you to the Bangladeshi Christian Association and those who donated the Christmas lights for the front of St Joseph's Church this year. They looked very festive. Thank you to those who sent Christmas greetings, cards and gifts, they were all very much appreciated. *Fr Yacub*

### RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- Check-ins are still required for places of worship, funerals or memorial services.
- Masks will be strongly encouraged in places where you cannot socially distance, **i.e. places of worship.**
- Singing is now permitted but with masks on.
- 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 entering the church must give their details before entering the church. You can use the Service NSW QR code at the door or sign the parish sheets.
- 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, even if you do not think you have Covid and just a sore throat or a simple cold.

### **THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY AT ARNCLIFFE**

The St Vincent De Paul Society at Arncliffe would like to thank those who donated a present to someone through their annual Christmas Tree Appeal. Your gifts were greatly appreciated by those who received them!

### **BAPTISMS**



This weekend we welcome Ariana De Leon at St Francis Xavier's on Saturday and Thyra Sapla at St Joseph's on Sunday. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on these special occasions.

### **PART TIME COOK REQUIRED**

The Redemptorist Fathers who live in Kogarah are seeking a part-time cook to assist the priests with meals. You would be required from Monday to Friday between 8am to 2pm. Please call 9553 3777 for more information.

### **BECOME A CATECHIST OR HELPER IN 2022**

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. We ask if you would share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

Please speak with Fr Yacub or the Catechist Coordinators: Lee Kendrick (Rockdale/Arncliffe), 0422 257 331 or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469

### **2022 COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

There are still some copies of this years Columban Calendar available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each.

### **MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES**

These are located at the doors of each of our Churches. It is always helpful to give at least one week's notice if you wish the name of a deceased loved one to be mentioned at a particular 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.

### **YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

As the Year of St Joseph ended last month, we have reverted to our Prayer for Australia. The current Covid climate does not seem like ending so it is timely that we pray for our country in the hope that the pandemic will end soon.

### **MASS TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SERVANT OF GOD, EILEEN O'CONNOR**

The Mass will be held this **Monday 10 January** at 11am with Bishop Terry Brady as the Principal Celebrant. Due to COVID concerns, Mass will only be available as a "Livestream" from Our Lady's Home in Coogee at [www.eileenooconnor.com.au](http://www.eileenooconnor.com.au) Visitors to the homepage can click on a link which will then send them to the Archdiocese of Sydney You Tube channel where they can watch the Mass.

### **SUMMER NIGHTS, YOUTH RETREAT**

The Summer Nights from Wednesday 12-15 January is a four day non-live in retreat experience held at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre at Varroville. In the picturesque grounds enjoy an outdoor event including friends, fellowship, prayer & worship, excellent speakers, Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, music & dramas, powerful encounters with God. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. Ages 16 – 35 are welcome. [www.summerschool.org.au/summernights](http://www.summerschool.org.au/summernights).

### **POSITION VACANT**

Province Bookkeeper, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Coogee. 3 days per week ideally Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. For further information contact Anthony Spata on 0402 210 055.

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

### **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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** John Tesoriero, Joan Morgan, Sr Maria Regina Cawood OLSH, Carmel Gazal and Joseph Giovenco.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Collin McKeon, Lawrence Mack, Bonaventura Giovenco, Thomas Yeats, Michael Rogers, Vincenzo Puglia, Josephine Chand, Rita Briscoe-Hough, Sylvia Moussa, Fr Kevin Carroll CSSR, John Reotutar and Concetta Graziano.

**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**

"The bells are just ringing the New Year in and I heartily wish you a happy and holy one". 1.1.1880

