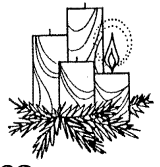


PARISHES OF ST GABRIEL'S, BEXLEY and  
ST MARY MACKILLOP'S, ROCKDALE CITY

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B - 4 & 5 DECEMBER 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](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 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
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> Saturday Vigil Sunday Masses	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 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>1Cor 1:3-9</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mk 13:33-37</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Ps. 79:2-3.15-16.18-19

Lord, make us turn to you,  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. *R/*



God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. *R/*

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

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.

BLESSING & LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Priest: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come,  
that by your protection we may be rescued  
from the dangers that beset us through our sins;  
and be a Redeemer to deliver us;  
Who lives and reigns with God the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, world without end. Amen.



[The first candle is lit]

All: O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every  
nation, Saviour of all peoples, come and dwell  
among us. Amen

[Opening Prayer]

FR YACUB'S 30<sup>TH</sup> JUBILEE MASS

A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners to join in celebrating Father Yacub's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. This special event will take place **next Sunday, 10th December** at the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's Church, followed by a sausage sizzle afterwards in the school grounds. **All welcome.** ☺

ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

Archbishop Anthony Fisher has issued a Pastoral Letter for the Sydney Archdiocese parishioners. We have put it on the parish website, with the bulletins. Copies can be printed or simply read it online at this link: <https://www.mmrc.org.au/parish-news>

### REFLECTION EVENING

On **Friday, December 15** we will be hosting a Reflection Evening "*Christ with us*" in St Joseph's Church from 6.30 – 7.30pm with Father Emmanuel Asi. Father Asi is the Executive Secretary of the Bible Commission, Pakistan and a Biblical Theologian. If you have any enquiries, please see Father Yacub or phone him on 0426 715 463.

### 2024 COLUMBAN CALENDAR

There are only a few 2024 Columban Calendars still available. If you still want one, they are in the Piety Stalls for \$10.00 each. These make a lovely Christmas gift.

### MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND THOSE HOPING TO CONCEIVE

All expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive are warmly invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral next **Sunday, 10 December**, with an opportunity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Richard Umbers with relics of St. Gerard Majella and St. Gianna Molla. Register before 1 December for catering purposes at <https://www.trybooking.com/CLMSM>

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATIONS

#### RECONCILIATIONS

#### **Rockdale (Italian/English)**

Wednesday, 20th December 10-10.45am

**Bexley** Saturday 23rd December – 8.00am

**Arncliffe** Saturday 23rd December – 4.00pm

**Rockdale** Saturday 23rd December – 5.30pm

#### MASSES

#### *Christmas Eve, Sunday, 24th December*

**Bexley** 5.00pm

**Arncliffe** 5.00pm

**Rockdale** 6.30pm

#### *"Midnight Mass", Sunday night*

**Rockdale** 11.00pm (Carols from 10.30pm)  
(N.B. Note the time change!!)

#### *Christmas Day, Monday, 25th December*

**Arncliffe** 9.00am

**Bexley** 9.00am

**Rockdale** 9.00am Italian

**Rockdale** 10.30am

*NO 5.00pm Mass at Bexley on Christmas Day*

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is currently conducting its annual Christmas Appeal to bring some cheer to those in need. Envelopes may be found on the pews in our churches. **On 17<sup>th</sup> December** there will be a third collection at Mass for this appeal but feel free to put in your donation now. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible but please fill in all the details, including a phone #.

### THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- Laudate Deo: Sydney students embrace sacred music
- Divisive euthanasia scheme begins in dark day for NSW: Archbishop Fisher OP comment
- Knights of the Holy Sepulchre welcome new member
- Charities working overtime for cost-of-living Christmas
- Anti-faith 'conversion practices' law delayed: Monica Doumit
- Theology of the Body speaker Jason Evert drops 'truth bombs'

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Come along to St Mary's Cathedral forecourt from **December 14 to 25 December** and join the festivities. Live entertainment will begin at 6.30pm. The signature light show of Christmas art will be projected onto the cathedral from 8:30pm. #ChristmasAtTheCathedral

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS & CARDS**  
Caritas Australia's Global Gifts & Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au)

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Sexual abuse is a crime. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. You can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:enquiries@sydneycatholic.org). The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

### AN OCCASION OF COMMON LAMENTATION AND PRAYER FOR PEACE

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Bishop Michael McKenna, Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Dialogue invites you to An Occasion of Common Lamentation and Prayer for Peace on Wednesday 6th December from 6:30pm-7:30pm in St Mary's Cathedral.

### SUMMER SERIES 2023 – 2024

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation in the Archdiocese of Sydney is excited to present the 2023-24 Summer Series with events in Sydney, including world-renowned special guests Dr Christopher West, Matt Fradd, Jason Evert. For more information on all the Summer Series events and to register, please visit <https://sydneycatholic.org/summer-series/>.

### COVID REMINDER

- Masks are still 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.
- 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.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Christina Truant, Carmello Sapuppo, Sylvester Fernandes and Joseph Attard.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary Thomson, Joseph Gioenco, Paul Vella, Joyce Fitzgerald, Clive Breen, Angela Natoli, Jeremiah Cotter, Vincent & Margaret Ryan.

**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

"We are but travellers here." 27.11.1866

