



ST MARY MACKILLOP PARISH ROCKDALE CITY

Three Communities – One Parish

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A - 20 & 21 DECEMBER 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.)

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
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.		
1st Reading: <i>Is 7:10-14</i> ; 2nd Reading: <i>Rom 1:1-7</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 18-24</i>			

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and all its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. *R/*

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. *R/*

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. *R/*



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!



COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2026 Columban Calendars are now available at the Piety Stalls for \$10 each. They assist the Columban Missionaries in meeting the needs of the poor and make a great Christmas gift. Get them before they sell out!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN KING ST MALL

Christmas Carols will again be sung in King Street Mall Rockdale this December! This will be held **this Sunday, 21st December from 8.00pm**. Please gather your family and friends and come along to support our parishioners and show the real joy of the Christmas Season with fellow local residents. **Everyone is welcome!**



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Vigil, Wednesday, 24th December

Bexley 5.00pm
Arncliffe 5.00pm
Rockdale 6.30pm



"Midnight Mass", Wednesday night

Rockdale Mass at 11.00pm with Carols from 10.30pm
(N.B. Note the Mass is NOT actually at Midnight!!)

Christmas Day, Thursday, 25th December

Arncliffe 9.00am
Rockdale 10.30am
Bexley 9.00am
Bexley 5.00pm

BAPTISM

This Sunday we welcome Poppy Doyle at St Gabriel's. We also welcome her family and friends who join her today.



FATHER YACUB'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

December is here and Christmas is just around the corner. This is the most awaited feast that we Christians celebrate. There is abundance of colour, decorations, merriment with all the joys of celebration. Will it be the same celebration like other Christmases we have years ago? The year 2025 proved to be a difficult year to some of us and generally to the global environment. We faced the issues on climate change, poverty, conflicts and wars, global health crises, and threats to human rights and equality, the impacts of new technologies like artificial intelligence. All these altered the celebration and even meaning of Christmas.

Why celebrate Christmas?

The answer to this query will bring us back to the first Christmas more than two thousand years ago. When Jesus Christ was born, the world was in chaos. There was so much poverty, political divide, discrimination and too much suffering. In fact, a huge swath of people: shepherds, the poor, abandoned, sick and rejected were waiting for a Saviour. It was during this time when people were in dire need that God appeared. God came in their midst.

Christmas is a time not only to celebrate Jesus' birth but to remind us the reason why He came and lived among us. "God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life." Christmas is all about the love of God. This is a celebration that God loves you and God will always be with you.

Do we still need to celebrate Christmas? More than ever, we need God at this time. This is the time of healing and renewed strength, forgiveness and reconciliation. Yes, circumstances are different this year, but our needs are the same: we need a CHRISTMAS that builds up families, respect individuality, unite communities and the church as a whole.

My profound prayer: May Christmas bring hope, love, joy and that every heart radiate the peace of Christ in our parish, community, in our country and around the world. May harmony and understanding overcome discord and division wherever they exist.

A GRACE FILLED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

BONDI BEACH TERRORIST ATTACK

Following the tragic events at Bondi I offered Mass on Monday morning for those who lost their lives, the injured, the families and friends, and all those affected by this terrible event. I know that each of you will have been offering prayers for those affected. I ask that you continue to do so as they begin the slow and difficult journey towards acceptance and recovery.

Fr Yacub

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Mark your calendars! Christmas at the Cathedral will continue until **Christmas Day, 25th December**. Join with family and friends at the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, for nine fun-filled nights of market stalls, delicious food, roaming entertainment and live performances. Experience stunning light projections that bring the beloved Christmas song "The Little Drummer Boy" to life, transforming the cathedral into a beautiful spectacle. The event will be on each of the nights from 5:30 – 10:30pm with lights on at 8:30 PM each night in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral. <https://christmasatthecathedral.org.au>.

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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed **from 1.00pm Monday, 22nd December until 9.00am Monday, 5th January**. If anyone needs a priest **urgently**, please call Fr Yacub on 0426 715 463. If it is not urgent, please send an email and this will be replied to after 5th January.

The next parish bulletin will be published on 10 and 11 January.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS / ACOLYTES NEEDED TO HELP OUT

The parish is in real need of more assistance to take the Blessed Sacrament to Catholics in local nursing homes. We have recently had a couple of dedicated volunteers 'retire' or are taking a break, and those who are assisting, are being asked to give more of their time. Please contact Maree Ross 0428 103 758 if you can spare an hour or two on a regular basis.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

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. 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 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: Mira Greif and those who lost their lives at Bondi Beach.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mushtaq Barkat, George Masih, William Quirk, Clare Lyons, Harold Seers, Audrey Bran, Mary Nohra, Colin Berry, Nello Faraone, Miriam Shields, John Bridges, Alice & Sylvio Souza, Francis Condon, David Bugo, Linda Yusnandaa, Shaun Padua and deceased Passionist Sisters.

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

"May our good God grant you all a holy and truly happy Christmas. We can all meet together in spirit at the Crib of our loving Infant and can recommend our several wants and pray for one another. I wish you every grace and blessing of this holy time with fondest love." 19.12.1868

