

# 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)

## 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 11 & 12 FEBRUARY 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> <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>Sirach 15:15-20</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>1 Cor 2:6-10</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 5:17-37</i>			

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. *R/*

You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. *R/*

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. *R/*

Teach me the demands of you statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.

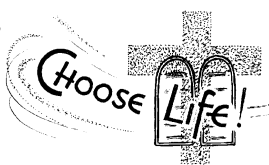
Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. *R/*

### 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!**



### ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

The Mass schedule will be:

- 8.00am Marist College Kogarah Chapel
- 9.00am Arncliffe
- 9.00am Rockdale
- 10.30am Bexley
- 10.30am (Italian) Rockdale
- 7.00pm Rockdale



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

### PROJECT COMPASSION

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**

The Project Compassion envelopes are available for collection this weekend at all Masses. Please take a set home and return it each week by placing it in one of the collection plates each weekend. Alternatively, you may like to take a money box. This Lent, let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves. One of the great traditions in Lent is to give-up something we enjoy. The money normally spent on this enjoyment could be given to Project Compassion as a means of linking your alms-giving with your Lenten sacrifice and penance.



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

## BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Natalia Haldezos, Peter Karlis and Lily Konopet who will be baptised at St Joseph's. We also welcome their families and friends who join them on this special occasion.



## ADVANCE NOTICE – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March** is the annual World Day of Prayer and this year it will be held in St Joseph's Church as part of the rotation of our local Christian Churches. The service starts at 10:30am and the country theme this year will be Taiwan. This will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. All parishioners are most welcome to attend this ecumenical service. Please gather some friends and bring them along too.

## CARITAS SUPPORT FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA

Thousands of people have been killed after a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Türkiye and northern Syria, followed by another 7.5 magnitude earthquake only hours later. So far, more than 7,500 deaths have been reported, with the death toll increasing by the hour. Vital infrastructure like hospitals, schools, utilities and water and sanitation systems have been damaged or reduced to rubble. Freezing winter weather is only adding to the devastation, as the thousands left injured, trapped or homeless are stuck in bitter cold and freezing rain. The World Health Organisation estimates that at least 23 million people have been affected by the earthquake, one of the largest to hit the region in over a century. We are working with our colleagues in Caritas Syria and other Caritas agencies on-the-ground to respond to the devastation caused by the earthquake. To assist, please donate at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake>

## LENTEN COMPANION

With Lent approaching, the Archdiocese has given the parishes a small booklet as a guide to the Lenten season. The booklet is titled: "Spirit and Truth; The power of Christ revealed" and we have placed copies to each of our churches. The guide is based on the Gospels for the Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday. There are questions to encourage prayer and sharing about the Gospels so you may like to gather a few friends and create a small group for a weekly discussion.

## BECOME A CATECHIST OR HELPER IN 2023

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, 2023. 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/>

Our parish State Schools are desperate for some new catechist's or assistants to help out in the schools as several have either retired or are unable to carry on for the time being. If you can help, even for one hour a week, please speak with Fr Yacub or the Catechist Coordinators: Maree Ross (Rockdale/Arncliffe), 0428 103 758 or Laura Argiro (Bexley) 0433 444 469.

## 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.

## THIS WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

This weekend 11 & 12 February the Catholic Weekly have included a special commemorative magazine devoted to remembering Cardinal George Pell.

## 'COME & SEE' ~ SEMINARY OPEN DAY

Thinking about Priesthood? Want to know more about Seminary Life and Formation? Sunday 19 February Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 52-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. The day will include prayer, conversations with seminarians and priests, talks with information about the studies required of men training for the priesthood and a guided tour around the Seminary. Brunch will be provided. For more information, please visit us at [vocationcentre.org.au](http://vocationcentre.org.au) or contact us at the Vocation Centre on 9307 8424 or email [vocations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocations@sydneycatholic.org) | Online Registration Form for Catering Purposes: <https://forms.gle/rhYT6ZupMj47RL7G7>  
**Please RSVP by Wednesday 15 February.** All enquirer's details are kept confidential.

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Aid to the Church in Need is still supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine in its commitment to stay on the ground and keep serving its flock in the face of material and economic war. ACN is helping priests and religious, who are working across the country in parishes, with refugees, in orphanages and homes for the elderly. The main cities where we are sending immediate help are Kyiv, Zaporizhyya, Odessa and the region of Donetsk. We are doing everything we can to assist our Ukrainian brothers and sisters to be strengthened in their faith so that they may continue to be a light in Ukraine. ACN needs your help to continue this mission. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/ukraine> or scan the code.



## RESTRICTIONS ON OUR CHURCHES

- **Masks are still highly 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 or a simple cold.**
- 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 wait until there is space and distance before joining the queue.

## RECENTLY DECEASED: Aranata Leilua

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary-Imelda Leslie, Pio Leso, Raquel Goncalves, Barrie Fisher, Domenico Puopolo, Jabbour and Jennifer Azizi.

**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

"God loves courageous souls." 14.12.1890

