

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)

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A - 3 & 4 OCTOBER 2020

Parish Priest – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Priest – Fr Frank Regala

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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 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: Mr Kevin Bryson

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

|                                                                                                                    | 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><br>10.30am<br>6.00pm <i>(Third Sunday only in Filipino)</i> | -----<br>9.00am<br>5.00pm                                                          |
| <b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b>                                                                                              | 9.00am Wednesday<br>9.00am Friday                                                                                                                              | 7.00pm Tuesday <i>(Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 5.30pm)</i><br>9.00am Thursday | 9.00am Monday<br>9.30am Thursday<br>9.00am Saturday <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. Currently weddings can have 100 people, <b>but the 4 square metre rule and social distancing must be strictly observed.</b> |                                                                                                        |                                                                                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Is 5:1-7</i> ; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>Phil 4:6-9</i> ; Gospel: <i>Mt 21:33-43</i> |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                        |                                                                                    |

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** - Ps 79:9.12-16.19-20

**The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. *R/*



Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. *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/*

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. *R/*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
**Alleluia!**



**HOLY FATHER'S APPEAL (PETER'S PENCE)**

**This weekend, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> October** we will hold the annual collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence). This is normally held near 29<sup>th</sup> of June which is the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. The appeal highlights the global charitable causes of Pope Francis and is aimed at alleviating the suffering of those affected by natural disasters, wars, the refugee crisis and poverty, to name a few. It is an opportunity for us to get involved in an important initiative of the Catholic Church on a local level. All the monies collected from across the Archdiocese will be forwarded directly to the Holy See, via the Archdiocesan Chancery. These donations are not tax-deductable, nor receipts given.

**MARY MACKILLOP'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF CANONISATION**

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop the Sisters of St Joseph invite you to order your free copy of *Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer*. The Sisters have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world. To order your exclusive copy please phone us on 8912 2777 or go to: [www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book)

## RESTRICTIONS ON CHURCHES

- Church attendance numbers are limited to a maximum of 100 people, providing there is a four-square metre space around each person, with the exception of people from the same household. Our three churches are limited for numbers attending and none can hold 100 people under current conditions. If there are too many people attending then those coming late may be asked to attend elsewhere.
- Parishioners are urged to wear face masks as a safeguard to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Congregational singing, the sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended at this time.
- 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.
- The dispensation from the Bishops from attending Mass is still ongoing.
- ANYONE who enters the church must give their names and contact details before entering the church. These records will be kept for four weeks.
- Only one door will be opened to enable accurate recording of those attending.
- Hands must be sanitised when entering the church.
- Parishioners must not mingle before, during or after Mass since social distancing rules cannot be easily observed.
- Please do not come to the church if you are unwell, even with a simple cold.
- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs in a parish, every person who has registered as an attendee of the parish will be notified of the diagnosis and the date and time the infected person attended the church. No other details will be provided.
- The Parishes will comply with privacy requirements.

## E-PETITION TO PROCLAIM MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is encouraging people to sign an e-Petition calling on the Premier and the NSW Government to take immediate steps to proclaim the state's Modern Slavery Act 2018.

Despite this law having passed parliament over two years ago, it still has not been brought into law, thanks to stalling tactics which have failed some of our state's most vulnerable citizens. This is a link to the petition <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>. The closing date for signing the e-Petition has been extended to **3 November 2020**.

Over 8000 people have so far signed the petition and with the securing of 20,000 or more e-signatures, a debate on the subject of the e-Petition will be activated in the Legislative Assembly.

## GREETINGS FROM BISHOP TERRY BRADY

During the week Fr Yacub received a lovely card from Bishop Terry to the parishioners at St Gabriel's on the occasion of their Feast Day, 29<sup>th</sup> September, the Feast of the Archangels. 😊

## 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.

## RESEARCH STUDY ON WORSHIP PRACTICES DURING COVID19 PANDEMIC

Monash University is inviting practicing Catholics aged over 18 across Australia to participate in a research study on religious practice before and after COVID-19 lockdowns. The anonymous study is exploring possible relationships between religious orientation, worship choices and post-pandemic spiritual wellbeing. If you'd like to participate in the study, you'll find more information here: [https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_43f3xmKUtlxa0S1](https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_43f3xmKUtlxa0S1)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON COVID-19

To help parishioners with any questions they may have around COVID-19 and its impact on sacraments such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, you may find the FAQs page on the Archdiocese of Sydney website helpful at this time: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

## DATING, DRUGS, ROCK'N'ROLL!

All young adults are invited to participate online in Macquarie University Catholic Society's Mission Week themed "Sex, Drugs, Rock'n'Roll"! With an amazing line up of speakers including Jason Evert, Fr Rob Galea, Monica Doumit and Patrick Langrell, this is the opportunity to ask those controversial questions you have always wanted answered. Held at 1.00-2.00pm from the 6th – 9th of October on Zoom. Register here for more details: <https://forms.gle/RuNe9n2auRK53NUo9> or follow their Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/mqcatholics>

## THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY HAS GONE DIGITAL!

As we can not supply print versions of the Catholic Weekly, some of you might prefer to read it electronically on your desktop, tablet or mobile. You can subscribe at: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/product/the-catholic-weekly-digital-edition/> Cost is \$1 per week.

## 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.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Ethel Donoghue, Patricia Coleman, Lona Bastic, Maria Carnabuci, Mary Caruana, Salvatore Catalano, Raymond Babington, Lucrezia Farrugia and Edward Newton.

**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. Amen.**

## ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"My heart almost sinks at some things, or rather it would sink but for the firm conviction that God's words can never fail." 28.6.1874

