

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)

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C - 2 & 3 MARCH, 2019

Parish Administrator – Fr Yacub Barkat

Assistant Priest – Fr Frank Regala

PARISH OFFICE: 13 Parker St, Rockdale 2216. Phone: 9567 1558. Fax: 9556 2094.

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

Italian Chaplain - Fr Adriano Pittarello: 8068 1595

St Francis Xavier's Primary, Arncliffe: 9567 5389 **Principal:** Mr Kevin Bryson

St Joseph's Primary, Rockdale: 9599 2541 **Principal:** Ms Carolyn Yeats

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

SCHOOLS:

| Weekend Masses | Weekday Masses | Reconciliation |
|---|---|--|
| Saturday Evening Vigil Masses Arncliffe - 5.00pm Rockdale - 6.30pm | Monday Bexley - 9.00am Tuesday Rockdale - Exposition, Rosary, Devotions - 6.00pm - Benediction 7.15pm - Mass 7.30pm | Bexley Weekly Saturday 8.00 – 8.40am |
| Sunday Morning Masses Bexley - 9.00am Arncliffe - 9.00am Rockdale - 10.30am Rockdale (<i>Italian</i>) - 9.00am | Wednesday Arncliffe - 9.00am Thursday Rockdale - 9.00am Bexley - 9.30am Friday Arncliffe - 9.00am 1st Friday Rockdale - 7.30pm Saturday Bexley - Reconciliation 8.00am - Benediction 8.45am - Mass 9.00am | Rockdale 1 st & 3 rd Saturdays 4.00 – 4.30pm Arncliffe 2 nd & 4 th Saturdays 4.00 – 4.30pm |
| Sunday Evening Masses Bexley - 5.00pm 3 rd Sunday only: Rockdale (<i>Filipino</i>) - 6.00pm | | Baptisms by appointment |
| | | St Francis Xavier's, Arncliffe 1 st Sunday of the month at 10.00am St Joseph's, Rockdale 2 nd Sunday of the month at 11.30am St Gabriel's, Bexley 3 rd Sunday of the month at 10.00am |
| | | Weddings Monday to Saturday by appointment |

1st Reading: *Sirach 27:4-7*; 2nd Reading: *1 Cor 15:54-58*; Gospel: *Lk 6:39-45*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 91:2-3.13-16
Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. *R./*

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. *R./*

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *R./*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Rosetta Negib who will
be baptised at St Francis Xavier's. We also
welcome their families and friends who join them
on this special occasion.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
This coming Wednesday, 6th March



6.45am – St Joseph's Rockdale
8.10am - Marist College Kogarah
9.00am – St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe
9.00am – St Joseph's Rockdale
10.30am – St Gabriel's Bexley
7.00pm – St Gabriel's Bexley
7.30pm – St Joseph's Rockdale (Italian)

PARISH OFFICE – ASH WEDNESDAY

As the staff will be attending the 9.00am Mass the Parish Office will open at 10.00am, this coming Wednesday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

As in previous years, there will be Stations of the Cross in both St Francis Xavier's and St Joseph's Churches, each Friday evening at 7.00pm during Lent, **commencing this coming Friday 8th March.**

FUNERAL

A Funeral Mass for the late Antonio Meola will be held in St Joseph's Church, **this coming Monday, 4th March** at 11.00am. Please keep his family in your prayers at this sad time.

ST MARY MACKILLOP'S QUOTE

"God loves us all." 1906



LENTEN PENANCE

In this season of Lent, we seek to experience the mercy of God the Father, and to practice it in our daily lives. But first we must experience our need for mercy, that is, our brokenness and, indeed, our sinfulness, insofar as we have failed to love God above all, and to love our fellow men and women as ourselves. This is why the Church's Canon Law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the merciful love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year and the season of Lent.

In nominating special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of us the habit of penance. Furthermore, observance of these special times by all Catholics throughout the universal Church emphasises what we call “the social dimension of sin”. The sin of the individual member always in some measure infects the whole body. Therefore during Lent and on every Friday throughout the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence; in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choice. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENA NCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, must be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.

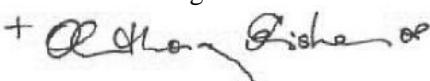
(b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country; limiting use of social media, smart phones or television.

(c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday (6th March) to the Mass of The Lord's Supper (18th April). On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 6th March, and Trinity Sunday, 16th June, 2019 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

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Archbishop of Sydney

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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2019

All Catholic children currently in Year 3 or above who attend St Gabriel's, St Francis Xavier's, St Joseph's or any of the Public schools in our parish are scheduled to make their First Reconciliation this year. Accordingly, there will be a Parent's Information Evening **this coming Thursday, 7th March**, in St Joseph's Hall at 6.00pm for the parents/carers/guardians of the children.

At least one parent or guardian of a child is expected to attend this meeting as the Registration Form for the programme will be handed out on the night. There will also be some general information about the First Holy Communion program on the night.

You are asked to bring a copy (not the original) of your child's Catholic Baptism Certificate to the meeting.

There is ample parking in the school grounds off Parker St, Rockdale. *The children themselves are not required to attend this meeting.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK - OPEN DAYS

Our three primary schools and two feeder high schools, Marist College Kogarah and Bethany College, Hurstville, will be celebrating **Catholic Schools Week during this coming week** by holding 'Open Days'. Parishioners who have children eligible to start school in 2020 or high school in 2020/2021 are most welcome to visit. **Enrolment packages for the schools will be available on these days.**

- ✓ **St Joseph's Rockdale** (9599 2541) - **Thursday, 7th March** with open classrooms from 9.15am - 10.30am.
- ✓ **St Francis Xavier's Arncliffe** (9567 5389) - **Wednesday 6th March** 10.00 – 11.00am and also 5.00 – 6.00pm
- ✓ **St Gabriel's Bexley** (9502 1932) – **Tuesday, 5th March** 9.30 -10.30am and also 3.30-4.30pm.
- ✓ **Bethany College Hurstville** (8566 0711) invite parents and students wishing to enrol into Year 7 in 2020 and 2021 are invited Bethany Open Day on **Tuesday 5th March**: 3.00pm – 6.00p.m.
- ✓ **Marist College Kogarah** (9587 3211) will be holding an Open Afternoon on **Wednesday, 6th March** from 3.00 – 6.00pm.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dominic Mandile, Antonio Meola, Paul Graham, Fr William Heng Seng Lee CSsR, & Maria Ramos.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Thompson, Rosa Zumbo, Bernadette La Vite, Rita Young, Encarnacion De Angel, Angelo Vaccaro, Michael McDermott, Lydia Caruso, Patrick Donoghue, Kate Donoghue, Teofila Simeon, Mardi Songcuan, Kathleen Lavery, Mark Magee and Michael McKenna.

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.