

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)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR A - 11 & 12 JANUARY 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

**Italian Chaplain:** Fr Adriano Pittarello: 8068 1595

### SCHOOLS:

**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

|                       | ARNCLIFFE                                                                                                                                    | ROCKDALE                                                                                                                                   | BEXLEY                                                                               |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                      |
| <b>Saturday Vigil</b> | 5.00pm                                                                                                                                       | 6.30pm                                                                                                                                     | -----                                                                                |
| <b>Sunday Masses</b>  | 9.00am                                                                                                                                       | 9.00am ( <i>Italian</i> )<br>10.30am<br>6.00pm ( <i>Third Sunday only in Filipino</i> )                                                    | 9.00am<br>5.00pm                                                                     |
| <b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b> | 9.00am Wednesday<br>9.00am Friday                                                                                                            | 7.30pm Tuesday ( <i>Devotions, Exposition, Benediction &amp; Rosary from 6.00pm</i> )<br>9.00am Thursday<br>7.30pm First Friday each month | 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                                                                     | 4.00 – 4.30pm<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month                                                                   | 8.00 – 8.40am Saturday                                                               |
| <b>BAPTISMS</b>       | 10.30am<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month<br>By appointment. Please book by phoning the Parish Office 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.                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                      |

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: *Is 42:1-4, 6-7*; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: *Acts 10:34-38*; Gospel: *Mt 3:13-17*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM - ps 71:1-2.7-8.10-13

**The Lord will bless his people with peace**

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. *R/*

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. *R/*

The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. *R/*



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice  
was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

**Alleluia!**



### BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome Jodie Villaflor at St Joseph's. We also welcome her family and friends who join her on this special occasion.



### INSTALLATION MASS THANKS

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who made my Installation Mass so very special. Thanks to those of you who helped prepare for the Mass, those who attended and participated in the Mass, and those who organised and those who attended the 'cuppa' afterwards. There are far too many of you to thank individually, but please know that I was touched by all your efforts on my behalf.

I was honoured that Archbishop Fisher asked me to be St Mary MacKillop's Parish Priest and St Gabriel's Parish Administrator. I ask for your ongoing support as we will need to work together to face the many challenges of the coming decade. It will be your talents, your commitment, and your prayers that will see our parishes to continue to grow in faith and remain a united community. I pray that God will bless and guide me over the next six years of my appointment so that I can do my very best for each and every parishioner. *Fr Yacub*

### THANK YOU

Many thanks to the Parishioners at St Gabriel's who so generously supported our Christmas Tree gifts for the children at Marian Villa, and for the wonderful support this past year with the St Vincent de Paul Appeals.

### ANNUAL LEAVE

Fr Frank will be on leave for the next three weeks.

## UNDERSTANDING THE PARISH COLLECTIONS

The parish church is often an important landmark in a local community but it is the people who gather there who are the Church. Our parishes provide places for people to gather and worship, Catholic schools to teach our children and committed teams of volunteers who reach out to their neighbours. All that is possible because of the generosity of those who financially support their local parish. The Australian Catholic people have always been generous in supporting their priests and their parishes and your financial support through the parish collections enables the Church to continue its Mission.

**The First Collection Money** received supports the needs of priests of the parish. Priests' monthly stipends. Priests' household costs e.g. food, utilities, cleaner etc. A small percentage to cover the expenses of the Archbishop especially in caring for elderly priests. Income from other sources includes Easter and Christmas offerings (via envelope contributions made at these times). Wedding and baptism donations are also added into the first collection.

*Surplus from the first collection.* Any surplus is placed into a Central Fund, and any deficit is reimbursed to the parish, to ensure that all parish priests and assistant priests receive sufficient funds to cover their living expenses. In that way, a priest who ministers in a financially struggling community is assured of equal care. Additionally, the Central Fund supports: Migrant chaplains. Priests undertaking postgraduate studies. Priests in remote mission areas here and overseas. Priests' health insurance and care costs Permanent deacons' health fund costs and ministry expenses.

**The Second Collection Money** received supports the maintenance of the parish buildings, administration and pastoral programs. Some of the expenses covered are: parish running costs, e.g. liturgical expenses, insurance, utilities, general maintenance and upkeep of the church, presbytery and parish property; parish staff salaries including superannuation and the priests' car expenses. The collection combines income from planned giving envelopes and loose cash on the plates.

### Special Collections

- **The Charitable Works Fund (CWF)** supports CatholicCare, CCD (ministry expenses for catechists in state schools), Ephpheta Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Seminaries and Chaplaincies, etc.
- **The Priests' Retirement Foundation**, supports sick and retired priests.
- **Project Compassion Appeal** held in Lent supports the charitable works of Caritas Australia in developing countries.
- **Catholic Mission's** focus is on the Church's worldwide missionary activities.
- **The Society of St Vincent de Paul**, Winter and Christmas Appeals provide assistance to society's needy and disadvantaged persons.

**Thank You** - Your generosity in supporting the priests and good works of the Church is gratefully acknowledged. Each person's capacity to give is different and depends on individual circumstances and you are not expected to give anything more than is reasonable. May God bless you. Fr Yacub.

## PRAYER IN TIME OF DROUGHT

O God, Lord of all creation, by whose power the whole earth came to be, look upon our parched land, we pray, and bestow upon it abundant rain, that pastures, fields and paddocks may by your goodness thrive once more. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

## DROUGHT SUPPORT

The Parish has received a letter of thanks from The Most Rev. Columba Macbeth-Green, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes. He wrote: *"Please thank your Parish community for your generous donation (\$3,500) to our drought fund. Please pass on my deepest thanks and gratitude. When we receive donations, it brings me great hope to know that people are thinking and praying for us across the nation. Please be assured of my constant prayers and please pass on my blessings and most of all my deepest thanks and gratitude."*

Thank you again to those who gave so generously to the drought appeal last year. Fr Yacub

## COLUMBAN CALENDARS

There are still a few 2020 Columban Calendars available at the Piety Stalls for \$9 each. Get one before they go!

## COME TO ROME WITH US!!

We have really exciting news! Fr Yacub will be leading a Pilgrimage to Rome from **9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**. The Pilgrimage, organised by the Archdiocese of Sydney, gives you an opportunity to visit religious and cultural sites such as St Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican Museums, the 4 major Basilicas, the Colosseum, the Catacombs and much more. You will also have the opportunity to attend the Angelus and the Audience with the Holy Father. Accommodation in Rome is at Domus Australia, a boutique guest house in Rome with a beautiful Chapel. For more information, contact Trevor Kenneally via email: [pilgrimages@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:pilgrimages@sydneycatholic.org) or phone 0412 775 166. Flyers with more information are available at the back of the Church.

## WALK THE CAMINO!

Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages are being organised for 2020 in a small group led by an experienced guide. Sr Veronica Rosier OP Catholic Mission Camino Facilitator: 0451 387 906 [www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020)

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Lawrence Mack and Nello Faraone.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Collin McKeon, Winifred Derry, Rita Briscoe-Hough, Nada Huber, Eleonore Shalhoub, Sylvia Moussa, Veda Hardy, Fr Kevin Carroll CSsR, Josephine Chand, Giuseppina Galiotta, Ethel Donoghue, Barbara Dell, Emerita Verdey

**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

"With fondest love and praying God to bless you all and grant you a truly happy New Year." 2.1.1882

