



St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



*The Last
Shall Be
First
— and the —
the First
Shall Be —
Last*

Matthew 20:1-16

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday 10:30am

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays

6:30pm Adoration

7:00pm Mass & Confession

Saturdays

9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession

MONASTERY CHAPEL MASS TIMES

Sundays 7:00am

Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish
Office for the following:

**Baptisms
Reconciliation
For the Sick
Marriages
Funerals**



Parish Priest:

Fr Shansana 0437 884 233

Parish Office 9653 2312

**25TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20 2026**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbour,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

SELF REFLECTION: AVOID COMPARISON

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16 —Jesus teaches us
not to compare ourselves with others or feel envious of
what they receive. God knows each person's journey and
gives His grace freely. We are called to be grateful,
humble and joyful in His generosity.

I Reflect...

1. Do I sometimes compare myself with others?
2. Am I grateful for the blessings God has given me?
3. Do I become envious when others receive more than
I think they deserve?
4. Can I trust in God's timing and generosity?
5. How can I show greater generosity towards others?

Grateful

Prayer

Lord, keep me from comparing myself with others or
becoming envious of their blessings. Teach me to be
grateful for all that You have given me and to rejoice in
Your goodness to everyone. May I serve You with a
humble and generous heart. **Amen.**

First Reading**Isaiah 55:6-9 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18**

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading**Philippians 1:20-24, 27 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL****Matthew 20:1-16 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*"All things are to be held in common, and no one is to call anything his own."
— Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 33*



READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

Isaiah 55:6-9 / Philippians 1:20-24, 27 / Matthew 20:1-16

GOD'S WAYS



These readings remind us that God's ways are greater than our own. We may not always understand why God blesses others differently or why things happen in His timing, but we are called to trust Him.

In the **Gospel**, the workers in the vineyard remind us not to compare ourselves with others, but to be grateful for God's generous love.

St **Paul** shows us what it means to live with Christ at the centre of our lives, while **Isaiah** calls us to seek the Lord and turn away from our own ways.

Key Thought:

God's ways are greater than our ways. We may not always understand His timing or blessings, but we are called to trust His wisdom, avoid comparing ourselves with others, and be grateful for His generous love.

Take-Home Challenge:

This week, when you find yourself comparing your life with someone else's, stop and thank God for His blessings in your own life.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust Your ways, even when I do not understand them. Keep me from comparing myself with others and fill my heart with gratitude for Your generous love. May I seek You each day and live in a way that honours You. Amen.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday 21 Readings: Eph 4:107, 11-13.

R: Their message goes out through all the earth.

St Matthew, apostle, evangelist.

Tuesday 22 Readings: Prov 21:1-6. Lk 8:19-21.

R: Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

Wednesday 23 Readings: Prov 30:5-9. Lk 9:1-6.

R: Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet.

St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest.

Thursday 24 Readings: Eccl 1:2-11. Lk 9:7-9.

R: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Friday 25 Readings: Eccl 3:1-11. Lk 9:18-22.

R: Blessed be the Lord, my Rock!

Saturday 26 Readings: Eccl 11:9-12:8. Lk 9:43-45.

R: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Sts Cosmas and Damian, martyrs



STS COSMAS & DAMIAN

FEAST DAY SEPTEMBER 26

*Heavenly Father,
through the intercession of Sts Cosmas and Damian,
grant us compassionate hearts and the grace to serve
others with love. May we use our gifts to bring healing,
hope and kindness to those in need.
Sts Cosmas and Damian, pray for us. Amen.*

Source: Ordo 2026



POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 FOR THE CARE OF WATER

**Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water,
a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.**



PARISH NOTICE

Our parish is currently seeking volunteers to assist in a number of important ministries:

Music Ministry – WE ARE IN DESPERATE need of singers for the choir, and musicians.

Morning Tea – Helpers are needed to assist with morning tea after the 9:00am Mass every 6 weeks.

Flower Ministry – We are looking for volunteers to help arrange flowers for the church approximately once every 6–8 weeks.

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

This week's volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

DEAN FAUGHT

Thank you, Dean, for your hard work and generosity in cleaning the cobwebs and windows around our parish. Your efforts have helped keep our church looking clean, welcoming and beautiful for everyone who visits.

We truly appreciate your time and dedication. Thank you, Dean, for all that you do for our parish! 🙏

IN DEFENCE OF HUMAN DIGNITY



Pope Leo XIV has urged Christians to defend human dignity in every circumstance with “the light and strength of the Gospel”.

The pope says recognition of fundamental human rights represents one of the most important achievements in human history. The Church contributes to this journey, says the pope, by recalling that dignity arises from the very being of each person.

“Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made,” he says. “Instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love.”

Pope Leo quoted his encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, stressing that every human being is “planned and willed by God” for communion with him, with others and with creation.

He says this infinite dignity is rooted in humanity’s creation in the image of God. Christ reveals the ultimate foundation of this dignity by revealing humanity to itself and making known to us our highest calling, he added.

The pope acknowledges that humanity remains wounded by sin and divided in a struggle between good and evil. ‘Christians, however, can face this fragility with hope because Christ came to free, strengthen and renew humanity from within’.

Pope Leo’s entire catecheis:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260909-udienza-generale.html>

Source: Vatican News by majellan.media

In Our Parish

(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

We welcome into God’s family all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially:

Joe Gallo, Miriam Brown, Pauline Honor, Kath Moran, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died:

Bill Youl, Teresa DeLuca and Patrick DeLuca, Sr Fay Hancock, Tereza Muscat, Bill Pierce, Francesco Merlino, Peter Chedid, Antonio Romeo, Nanna Trani, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappallardo and Shannon Murray.
~ May they rest in Eternal Peace.



CATECHIST NEWS

School Holiday Break

School holidays are coming up!

Our **final SRE/Catechism class for Term 3** will be **Friday, 25 September**, and classes will resume on Wednesday, 14 October.

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful Catechists for your dedication, patience and hard work in sharing the faith with our children throughout the term. Your commitment is greatly appreciated!

🎉 **Congratulations to Lisa Welsman!** 🎉

A very special congratulations to Lisa Welsman on reaching **15 years as a Catechist!** Thank you, Lisa, for 15 years of faithfully sharing your time, faith and love with our children. May God continue to bless you in your ministry!

God bless,
Martina Jutrisa srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator 0413 403 767
Parish Office: 9653 2312

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Senior Research & Writing Consultant

Minor Basilica Application Project

Catholic Parish of Chatswood, Diocese of Broken Bay

The Catholic Parish of Chatswood invites Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified independent contractors, consultants or specialist writers to lead the research, writing and coordination of the Minor Basilica application.

This is a project-based engagement requiring an experienced professional who can combine historical research, exceptional writing ability and strong project management skills to produce a submission of the highest quality. The successful contractor will work collaboratively with the Parish Priest and a parish project team while maintaining responsibility for the day-to-day planning and delivery of the project.

EOI Closing Date: 9 October 2026

Enquiries and Submission:

David.ranson@bbcatholic.org.au

HEALING MASS

Healing Mass is held on the first Thursday of each Month at 9.30am

**NEXT HEALING MASS:
THURSDAY OCTOBER 1**

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**
Every one welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.



CCC PRAYER GROUP



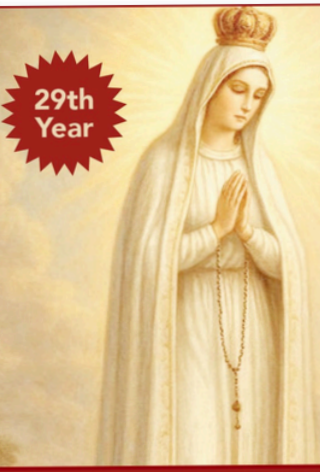
Prayer meeting held every **Wednesday morning:**
after 9.30am Mass. *Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!*

For more details call
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CRAFTGROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!



29th Year

OUR LADY OF FATIMA FEAST DAY

Begins with a short play and rosary in five languages, followed by procession and Mass. Ending with refreshments and raffle.

St Benedict's Parish, Sunday 11 Oct 2026 1pm
2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159

A Petition Box will be available for special requests to Our Lady, which will be taken to the Shrine of Fatima.

9-day Novena begins Friday 2 October at 6:25pm with Holy Rosary, followed by Holy Mass at 7pm each day.

Phone: 0438 521 421 for further details.

People are welcome to bring a plate to share for supper.

NEW ROSTER IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE SACRISTY. PLEASE COLLECT YOUR COPY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



Create.Share.Encounter
A Creative Women's Ministry

There will be no workshop in October due to the school holidays so we will next meet on November 4th for an Advent themed activity.

ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8-12 years
Our Kids Youth Group is held on Fridays
DURING SCHOOL TERM

4.00pm to 5.30pm

YOUTH GROUP BREAK

*Youth Group will finish for the term on Friday, 18 September and will resume on Friday, 23 October.
We wish all our young people a wonderful break and look forward to seeing everyone again in October!*

Contact Jules On 0415 448 797 for further information.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO), PRIEST

September 23

c. 1887-1968



**Patron Saint of adolescents and civil defense volunteers
Invoked by those in need of stress relief,
spiritual healing, and for January blues
Canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 16, 2002**

Saint Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione in the rural town of Pietrelcina, Italy. Called Franci (Frankie), he was the third of five surviving children. Town life centered around the local church of Saint Anna with feasts, Masses, processions, novenas, and parish festivals. Early on, Franci exhibited great piety, dedicating himself to God and the Blessed Virgin at age five. He suffered from nightmares as a toddler and later believed that they were evidence of the devil already tormenting him. His three years of public schooling were interrupted by various illnesses.

When ten-year-old Franci met a bearded Capuchin friar, he told his parents, "I want to be a friar with a beard!" To pay for the better education Franci would need, his father worked in America for three years, sending home nine dollars each week. At fifteen, Franci entered the Capuchins, receiving the name Pio, possibly after Pope Pio I, whose relics were in Saint Anna Church.

Five days before joining the Capuchins, Pio had a vision in prayer. A "majestic Man" led him to do battle with a "mysterious creature." When the creature fled, Pio received a beautiful crown. He was told that he must continually fight the creature but would always win with the majestic Man's help. Three days later, after receiving the Eucharist, Pio realized that the creature was from hell, but the Man at his side was Christ. In a vision two days later, Jesus and Mary consoled and strengthened Pio. At age nineteen, Pio took his final vows, and was ordained a priest at twenty-three.

The barefoot friars gathered to pray seven times a day, spent long hours studying, lived in simple cells, fasted, and engaged in manual labor. Continually in poor health, Pio regularly fell into ecstasy in prayer, levitating at times, weeping at others, often losing track of time and place. Once ordained, he lived with his family until his health improved. In 1916, he was sent to Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary, in San Giovanni Rotondo, where he lived the rest of his life.

Padre Pio soon became known as a mystic. His ecstasies made his Masses long and devout. He heard confessions and counseled many, often with "pray, hope, and don't worry." On September 20, 1918, while praying after Mass, Jesus' wounds pierced Pio's body. He openly carried the stigmata for exactly fifty years, and no doctor could explain the wounds. People flocked to see the living saint and mystic. He manifested the charisms of healing, bilocation, levitation, and prophecy. Foreign visitors heard him speak in their own language. He could read hearts, spent weeks at a time eating only the Holy Eucharist, and slept little or not at all. Miraculous conversions resulted from his ministry.

While these miraculous events inspired many Catholics, they concerned some Church authorities. In 1931, the Holy See banned Padre Pio from public ministry as a lengthy investigation began. Thirteen years later, Pope Pius XI reversed the restrictions. Pope Paul VI fully exonerated Padre Pio in 1963. On September 22, 1968, Padre Pio celebrated a televised solemn Mass that thousands attended to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his reception of the stigmata. The next day, his wounds disappeared and he passed to Heaven. An estimated 100,000 people attended his funeral.

Saint Padre Pio, you loved God with all your heart and bore Christ's wounds on your body. Through you, many lives were converted, hearts healed, and sins forgiven. Please pray that I will receive the healing I need to more fully devote myself to God's will and serve Him with all my might. Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

SEOULFEST - WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Join us for SeoulFest — the official launch of our pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027!

Celebrating the Feast of Saint Andrew Kim Taegŏn, Patron of World Youth Day, we're beginning the countdown to an unforgettable pilgrimage to Japan, Seoul and Incheon in 2027. Come and experience a taste of South Korea with Korean food, music, culture, games and activities, while meeting other young people, young adults and families from across the Diocese.

This is intended for young people, young adults and families.

Date: Sunday 20 September 2026

Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Location: The Light of Christ Centre, 29 Yardley Avenue, Waitara

Enquiries: mission@bbcatholic.org.au



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

NEPAL FLOOD APPEAL

On 26 August 2026, catastrophic flash floods struck Nepal following a collapse of ice and rock in the Himalayas.

The debris blocked the Bhote Koshi River, creating a natural dam that later burst and sent water, mud and debris through the valley. Entire villages have been affected and homes, roads and bridges destroyed, particularly in the districts of Rasuwa and Nuwakot.

More than 1,000 people have been confirmed dead and almost 4,500 remain missing, including 38 Australians.

Aid to the Church in Need is in direct contact with the local Catholic church.

While immediate needs are being addressed by humanitarian organisations, ACN has offered much-needed support for future rebuilding of churches, helping priests provide spiritual care, and providing pastoral transport so they can reach affected communities.

Your offerings will directly support Nepalese Catholics and help the church rebuild.

Please donate today:

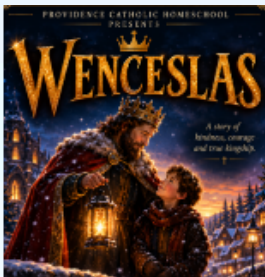
www.aidtochurch.org/

GOOD KING ST WENCESLAS – A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

***Providence Catholic Homeschool welcomes you to our production of Wenceslas.
A play written by Mrs Lisa English for children based on the historical and legendary
stories of St Wenceslaus of Bohemia and the Christmas carol
Good King Wenceslas by John Mason Neale.***

Come along and enjoy a wonderful one-off performance celebrating the life and faith of Good King St Wenceslas, remembered as a model Christian king who lived in the 10th century and was devoted to helping the poor.

Our local students have been rehearsing for several months and are excited to bring this inspiring story to life. You may also recognise the famous Christmas carol, "Good King Wenceslas."



17 Saturday, 26 September 2026

11:30am

Berowra Community Centre, The Gully Road, Berowra NSW 2081

Admission:

- Children under 17 – FREE
- Adults – \$25
- Concession/Pensioners – \$15

Bookings can be made through [TryBooking – Good King Wenceslas](#)

Come and support the students as they share this inspiring story of faith, generosity and care for those in need!

PARISH ROSTER

NEXT WEEKEND

26/9/2026 to 27/9/2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A

Please join us for ☕ Morning Tea after the 9:00am Mass next Sunday.

	SAT 7PM	SUN 9AM	SUN 10:30AM
Acolyte		Lorraine D	George A
Reader 1	Mary C	Nigel M	Leeann A
Reader 2	Margaret B	Marisa Q	Azzi family
Prayers	Edyn V	Teresa G	Fogarty family
TV		Mary A	Jonah A
EMHC		Nigel M	Gebran A
EMHC		Jessie G	Lorna B
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Sandra M
Music		Theresa N	Adam F
Music		Mary A	Max F
Morning Tea		Marisa Q	
Flowers	Hannah A		

MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalms 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings

6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds

12.45pm Midday prayer

6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers

8.00pm Night prayer - Compline

DID YOU KNOW...



Did you know? The Church teaches that grace is a free and undeserved gift from God. We cannot earn God's grace by our own efforts; He gives it generously and invites us to respond through faith and love.

WYD27 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We are so excited to announce that Expressions of Interest are now

open for our WYD27 Broken Bay Pilgrimage AGES 15 TO 35:

26 July – 12 August 2027

Japan – Seoul South Korea

<https://bbwyd27.org.au/>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and their enduring connection to country, waters, and culture. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

*Above all we give thanks to **God our Father**, who blesses this land, its people, and all creation. May we live in harmony, justice, and peace, guided by His love.*

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

St Benedict's Parish is committed to the safety of all, especially children and vulnerable people.

Concerns? Contact Fr Shansana 0437 884 233, or the Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

*For all parish **OH&S and Safeguarding Children** matters Contact Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882 or the parish office on 9653 2312.*

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm

(During School Holidays closed on Mondays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159

Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB

Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com

After hours: 0437 884 233

Facebook: [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)



PARISH BANK DETAILS for

ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia

Bank:

CBA—Catholic Development Fund



Support our parish!

Scan this QR code to make a donation.

MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159

121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159