

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1 2026



'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him' ~ Matthew 17:5 Image: bible.art

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

(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am

Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Eugene or Parish Office for the following:

Baptisms
Reconciliation
For the Sick
Marriages
Funerals

Contact:

Fr Eugene: 0499 548 521

Paula: 0423 078 282

Parish Office: 9653 2312



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
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: TRANSFIGURE YOURSELF

This Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9: Jesus reveals His glory to His disciples, strengthening their faith before the journey to the cross. The Father says, "Listen to Him." We too are called to trust Jesus — not only in moments of joy, but also in times of challenge.

I Reflect:

1. Do I take time to truly listen to Jesus?
2. When has God strengthened my faith?
3. Do I trust Him in difficult moments?
4. How can I reflect His light to others?
5. What is Jesus asking of me today?

Listen. Trust. Transform.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
You revealed Your glory to strengthen Your disciples' faith. Help me to listen to You, trust You, and follow You—both on the mountain and in the valley. Let Your light shine in my heart and through my life. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4 (JB)

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10 (JB)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

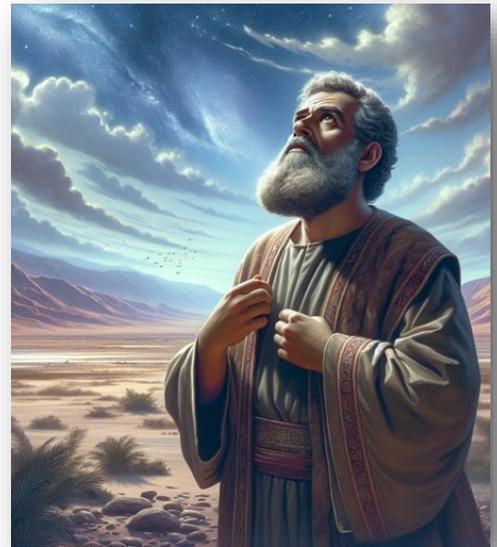
His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



"I will bless those who bless you."



"His face shone like the sun."

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Readings: Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, 17-19, Matthew 17:1-9
Second Sunday of Lent – God's Glory

- In **Genesis**, God calls Abram to leave his home and journey into the unknown, promising to bless him and make him a blessing to others.
- In **2 Timothy**, Paul encourages Timothy to be unashamed of the Gospel, to rely on God's grace, and to remain faithful despite challenges.
- In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John, revealing His glory and reminding them to **listen to Him** as they continue their journey toward the cross.

All three readings call us to trust in God and respond with faith.

Key Thought:

Faith often calls us to step into the unknown, remain steadfast, and listen to God's voice even when the path is difficult. Like Abram, Timothy, and the disciples, we are invited to trust God's plan and let His light guide our way.

Take-Home Challenge:

Reflect this week on one area of your life where God is asking you to trust Him more fully. Listen attentively, and take one small step forward in faith.

Prayer:

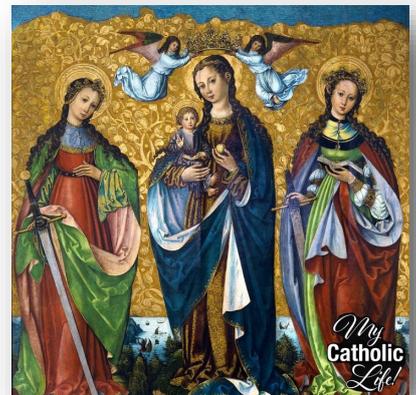
**Lord, help me to trust Your call and follow You faithfully.
Open my ears to hear Your voice and my heart to reflect Your light in the world.
Guide me in this Lenten season to grow closer to You and to live fully as Your disciple.
Amen.**

Source: chatgpt

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

March 2026

- Monday 2: Dan 9:4-10. Lk 6:36-38.
R. Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.
- Tuesday 3: Is 1:10, 16-20. Mt 23:1-12.
R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.
- Wednesday 4: Jer 18:18-20. Mt 20:17-28.
R. Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.
St Casimir
- Thursday 5: Jer 17:5-10. Lk 16:19-31.
R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
- Friday 6: Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28. Mt 21:33-43, 45-46.
R. Remember the marvels the Lord has done.
AUTUMN EMBER DAY - Special Day of Prayer and Penance.
- Saturday 7: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20.
R. The Lord is kind and merciful.
Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs.



**STS PERPETUA & FELICITY,
martyrs**
Feast Day: March 7

*Lord, give us the courage of
Saints Perpetua and Felicity to
remain faithful to You. Amen.
Amen.*

Source: Ordo 2026 image: mycatholic.life



Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for March 2026:

For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

FATHER SHANSANA AWAY

From **8 February** until **8 March** 2026.

During this time, please contact the
Parish Office on 9653 2312 or
Fr Eugene on 0499 548 521
or Paula on 0423 078 282
for any urgent pastoral needs.

REST IN PEACE

With heavy hearts, we share the sad news of the passing of:



ANNE PEARCE
26 February 2026



We hold Anne's family and friends in our prayers at this difficult time, asking God to grant them comfort and peace.

Funeral details will be advised when available.

May Anne rest in God's eternal love.



Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the **donation boxes, envelopes** or by scanning the **QR code**. Or online at:

www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, we invite all parishioners to walk with Jesus on His journey to the Cross.

Every **Wednesday morning** at
9:00am followed by the 9:30am Mass.

Every **Friday evening** at
6:30pm followed by the 7:00pm Mass.

Take this opportunity to reflect, pray, and deepen your Lenten journey with our parish community.

FIRST FRUITS OFFERING



Give Regularly.
Help Your Parish
Flourish.

Start Your Planned Giving Today
Visit Our Parish Website & Click "Give Now"

Scan the **QR code** below to contribute and help our parish continue its mission, ministries, and community programs.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 6th March 10.30am
At Galston Uniting Church
School Road, Galston
Host Country: Nigeria
Details: wdp.nsw7@gmail.com

PIETY SHOP NEWS

Discover the Treasures of Faith at Our Piety Shop!

From rosaries and candles to prayer books and sacramental gifts, we have everything you need to nurture your faith and share it with others. Come in and explore our beautiful selection today!

HEALING MASS

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

Next Mass: Thursday 5th March.



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:

Fr Bernard, Kath Moran, Vincent Bacha, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

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

Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappalardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Carmel RUSSO, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana ~ May they rest in Peace.



LENTEN GROUPS

Join us this Lent for our **parish Lenten groups**, a time to grow in faith, reflect on Scripture, and prepare our hearts for Easter. These small groups offer a supportive environment to share, pray, and deepen your relationship with God during this holy season.

Locations and Times:

**WEDNESDAYS
FROM 25TH FEBRUARY 2026**

**St Benedict's Parish Meeting Room – 1:00pm
led by Miriam Brown**

**Benigna Cascun's Place – 7:00pm
led by Gebran Azzi
(726 Old Northern Rd Dural)**

Additional Resources:

Lenten books are available at the entrances of the church for your personal reflection, helping you journey through Lent even if you cannot attend the group sessions.



AUTUMN EMBER DAY

**Autumn Ember Day – Friday, 6 March
2026**

In Australia, this day is set aside for prayer and penance, especially for the needs of all people, the fruits of the earth, human labour, and care for creation.

Prayer:

Lord God, Creator of all seasons, we thank You for the gift of work, the fruits of the earth, and the beauty of Your creation. Bless the labours of our hands, guide our efforts for the good of others, and help us live in harmony with Your world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

**Join the fun! Ages 8–12 years
Our Kids Youth Group is back on Fridays!**

A wonderful opportunity for children to **grow in faith, make friends, and enjoy fun activities** in a safe and welcoming environment. A big **thank you to Gabe & Jules for helping make this possible!**
Come along and be part of the fun!

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**
Everyone 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.

CRAFT GROUP

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!

CATECHISTS' NEWS

As we now move through the season of Lent, with the older students we look at what ways we are called to reflect, care and act? Our younger students are getting to know God and Jesus. We are guided by Pope Leo XIV, as he says in his Message of the Holy Father for Lent 2026, "Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by the sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life."

The Diocese through the CCD continues to support us through free Ministry Induction training for all new Catechists. This week's topic is 'Lesson Planning: Teaching the Authorised Curriculum' face-to-face and via Zoom.

Please continue to keep our Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers. There are prayer cards at the church entrances you may wish to take home.

If you are interested in learning more about being a Catechist or helper (training is provided), please contact myself or Paula at the parish office or any of our priests.

God bless,

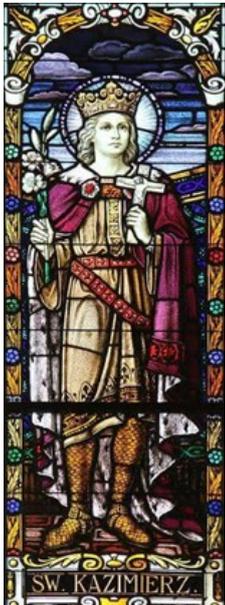
Miriam Brown
srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist
Co-ordinator



A TIME OF REFLECTION BY KEITH WALLACE

With a heavy heart, I announce the passing of several dear ones: my beloved younger brother, Robert Wallace (Jan 29th), a close friend from my boarding school days (Dec 20th), my business partner of 48 years, Gordon Giles (Sept 26th), and my sister-in-law Lorraine's mum (Jan 29th). I'm truly sorry if my recent quietness is noted, as these events have brought me into a deeply reflective space. They are a powerful reminder of how precious and brief our time here is, and how the true treasures we gather are not material, but the love we share and the spiritual connections we forge.

Family and friends are a blessed gift. I thank God for each of you who have enriched my life, and this reminds me to say what matters when we can. Thank you for being part of my life journey. I love you.



SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saint Casimir

Feast Day: March 4

c. 1458-1484

Patron Saint of Poland, Lithuania, and Lithuanian youth

**Believed to have been canonized by Pope Leo X in 1521 or
Pope Adrian VI in 1522**

Canonization confirmed by Pope Clement VIII in 1602

Quote:

Daily, daily sing to Mary; Sing, my soul, her praises due. All her glorious actions cherish, With the heart's devotion true. Lost in wond'ring contemplation, Be her majesty confessed! Call her Mother, call her Virgin, Happy Mother, Virgin blest! ~Verse of a favourite hymn of Saint Casimir

Reflection:

King Casimir IV was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. His wife, Queen Elizabeth, was the daughter of the Holy Roman Emperor Albert II. Their marriage was arranged primarily for political reasons, giving King Casimir IV greater influence in Bohemia and Hungary, but their marriage also bore great spiritual fruit. They had thirteen children, the third being the saint we honour today, Saint Casimir, named after his father.

Saint Casimir was born on October 3, 1458, the second son and third child in the Polish royal family. His father, King Casimir IV, was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. The family grew to thirteen children, all of whom were raised in the Catholic faith and given an excellent education.

From a young age, Casimir had no desire for power, war, riches, or nobility. He had fallen in love with his God and the Blessed Virgin. He prayed frequently, often slept on the floor, engaged in other penitential practices, spent entire nights meditating on the Passion of our Lord, dressed simply, and desired to live a life of chastity. He was charitable to the poor, manifested the virtues, and edified all who encountered him.

When Casimir was only thirteen, his father named him to fill the empty Hungarian throne. In the face of opposition by the Hungarian people, King Casimir IV sent his son to lead the Polish army in battle against the Hungarians and take the throne. Casimir opposed the war, and in time the effort failed and Casimir returned to Poland. Upon Casimir's arrival home, his angry father imprisoned Casimir in a tower for three months.

In the solitude of imprisonment, Casimir returned to his life of prayer and deepened his union with God. Afterward, he refused an arranged marriage. After completing his studies at age sixteen, Casimir worked closely with his father, but his heart remained with God and the Blessed Mother. When Casimir was twenty, his father had to tend to matters in Lithuania for five years. During his father's absence, Casimir ruled Poland with thoughtfulness, justice, and charity. At age twenty-five, Casimir became ill with a lung disease. His father rushed back to Poland to be with his son, and on March 4, 1484, Casimir died.

After his death, devotion to Casimir quickly exploded. Many people prayed to him, and many attributed miracles to his intercession. In 1519, when the Lithuanian army was engaged in battle with the Russians, it is said that Saint Casimir appeared to the Lithuanian soldiers in a vision and directed them to a place where they successfully defended their city.

Casimir was likely canonized in the 1520s, and Pope Clement VIII officially confirmed his sainthood in 1602, adding him to the Roman liturgical calendar for Poland and Lithuania. In 1620, Saint Casimir was added to the Roman Calendar of the universal Church.

Saint Casimir, at an early age you fell in love with God and the Blessed Virgin Mary. You prayed to them unceasingly and devoted your life to their service. You were a true prince in the court of the Great King of Heaven. Please pray for me, that I will always avoid the lures of this world, keeping my eyes fixed only on Heaven. Saint Casimir, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



St Benedict's Country Fete

Sunday 22 March 2026

10am
to 3pm

2 FAGANS ROAD ARCADIA PH: 9653 2312

Fruit & Veggie Stall • Chocolate Wheel • Raffle
Dev Tea • BBQ • Gifts • Coffee • Cakes • Lolly Stall
Hot Dogs • Pop Corn • Gelato • Face Painting
Flowers • Crafts • Plants • Rides & lots more...

FETE NEWS – WE NEED YOU!

Our Parish Fete is jus around the corner, and your help can make it amazing!

- **Raffle Tickets:** Grab some from the Church entrances to sell – let's spread the excitement far and wide!
- **Cow Tickets: Now available – get yours today!**
- **Donations Needed:** Bring **flowers** for the day, **baked cakes**, and **lollies (need them earlier to put in small bags)** for the stalls, or donate **new gifts** for the gift stand. **Big prizes** for the chocolate wheel are especially welcome.
- **Businesses Welcome:** Own a business? Consider **donating to the chocolate wheel** – every contribution makes a difference!
- **Volunteers Needed** - for hanging up signs the week prior to Fete.

Every little bit counts and helps create a fun, memorable day for our whole parish community.

Let's work together to make this Fete the best one yet!

Next FETE Meeting:
Tuesday, 3rd March, 7:00 pm – come along and join the excitement!

Contact Tania on 0401 597 278

Congratulations
Sister Wendy!

On your
18th year Anniversary of Profession

2 March 2008 to 2 March 2026

May the Lord continue to shine
His light upon you, strengthen
your heart, and fill your days
with joy, peace, and grace as
you faithfully serve Him. Amen.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a little;
I will set you over much." – Matthew 25:21*

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER
7/3/2026 to 8/3/2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Natasha S	Ann L	Lorna B
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Teresa G	John Family
Prayers	John V	Sharon O	Ellie May S
TV		Trey O	Mawhinney
EMHC 		Angela S	Sandra M
EMHC 		Jessie G	Marisa Q
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Keith W
Music			Sandra M
Music			
Morning Tea		Tania T	
FLOWERS	No flowers	during lent	

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.*

MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalm 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
ALL are welcome to attend any time.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE



NEXT NEW SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS - mid year

For any queries please email the parish office:
arcadia.pariah@bbcatholic.org.au

For our current Sacramental Program—the children who were confirmed and enrolled last year—we begin Reconciliation classes:

Wednesday 4th MARCH
and Friday 6th MARCH.

Please keep these children, their families, and their teachers in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey. May they experience God's love, forgiveness, and joy as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

DID YOU KNOW...

The word "Mass" comes from the Latin phrase "Ite, missa est" which means "Go, you are sent".

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm
Fr Eugene: 0499 548 521

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.pariah@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: stbenedictsarcadia



MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

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.

