

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

MARCH 21 & 22 2026



"If you believe you will see the glory of God"
 ~ John 11:40 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 Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

*Baptisms
 Reconciliation
 For the Sick
 Marriages
 Funerals*

Contact:

Fr Shansana 0437 884 233

Parish Office 9653 2312



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
 and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
 From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
 for you, O God, are my strength.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.
 By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
 may we walk eagerly in that same charity
 with which, out of love for the world,
 your Son handed himself over to death.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
 Spirit,

SELF-REFLECTION: LIFE RISING

This Sunday's Gospel, **John 11:1-45**, in the raising of Lazarus, we see that Jesus is never absent from our suffering, even when He seems delayed. He enters into our grief, weeps with us, and calls us to trust that He is the Resurrection and the Life. Even in moments that feel like darkness or loss, Christ is at work, bringing new life in ways we may not yet see.

I reflect:

- Do I trust Jesus in difficult moments?
- How do I respond to Jesus' call to "come out" of sin or fear?
- Do I listen to His call?
- What is holding me back?
- Do I believe in His power over all things?

Faith Renewed

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the Resurrection and the Life. Help me to trust in you, especially in times of waiting and uncertainty. Call me out of all that holds me back, and lead me into the fullness of new life with you. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL John 11:1-45 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'





(Gospel continued from previous page)

Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2026 Images: bible.art

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

March 2026

Monday 23:

Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62.

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness I fear no evil, for
You are with me.

St Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop.

Tuesday 24:

Num 21:4-9. Jn 8:21-30.

R. O Lord hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you.

Wednesday 25:

Is 7:10-14, 8:10. Heb 10:4-10.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD.

Thursday 26:

Gen 17:3-9. Jn 8:51-59.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Friday 27:

Jer 20:10-13. Jn 10:31-42.

R. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.

Saturday 28:

Ezek 37:21-28. Jn 11:45-56.

R. The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.

**SAINT TURIBIUS OF
MOGROVEJO
Feast day: March 23**

Prayer:

*Lord God,
through the intercession of
Saint Turibius of
Mogrovejo,
who shepherded your
people with wisdom,
courage, and holiness,
help us to follow Christ
faithfully,
to serve others with love,
and to live lives pleasing to
You. 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.



ST BENEDICT'S ARCADIA CATHOLIC PARISH

NOTICES

- Parish Country Fete Postponement to the 31st of May. Raffle tickets still valid.
- Need Fete volunteers for Gift Boxes Stall as well as relieving other volunteers temporarily so they can take a break and enjoy the fete as well.
- We need more volunteers to help with morning tea after the 9am Masses.
- We still need a piano player to be on roster for morning masses.

Contact the parish office for more details.

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.

PRAYER REQUEST



Prayers for the repose of **PELEGRINO VACCARELLA**

On his 1 year anniversary on the 28th March 2026



Our prayers and thoughts are with Caterina and family. May he rest in peace.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

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 this Lent.



DAY OF THE UNBORN CHILD

The Solemnity of the Annunciation, celebrated on the 25th March commemorates the message of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Incarnation of Christ.

Internationally recognised as the Day of the Unborn Child, this day invited us to reflect on the dignity of the unborn child and to remember in prayer those whose lives have been lost to abortion

Date: Sunday, 22 March 2026

Time: 10.30am Mass

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral Sydney

12pm Angelus followed by a Marian Procession through the streets of Sydney.

1.30pm Fervorino - St Mary's Cathedral Sydney



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL

Christians in the Middle East are facing untold danger as conflict and bombings escalate.

As airstrikes intensify across Lebanon, "the situation is overwhelmingly bad," says Marielle Boutros, ACN's project coordinator in Beirut.

Missiles are striking.

Entire communities are fleeing.

More than **one million people have been displaced.**

And the Church, once again, is opening her doors to all in need.

Over **550 shelters** have opened, from schools to church facilities, housing families who have nowhere else to go. Many thousands are living on the streets.

Parishes, convents, and Church-run institutions are doing everything they can...

- sheltering the displaced
 - providing food, water, and medicine
 - offering prayer and spiritual support
- ... but their resources are stretched to the limit.

<https://aidtochurch.org/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

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 and for our future Catechumen Nicholas.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially:
Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

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

Charles Zady, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappalardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella ~ May they rest in Peace.



NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for the next Sacramental Program will be opening soon.

This year is special, as we celebrate 40 years of the Broken Bay Diocese, and the Confirmation ceremony will be held at the Cathedral in November.

We need to know the numbers in advance, as the Diocese requires this information to organise the celebration.

If you have a child in Year 3 or above, please email the parish office so we can add them to the list of candidates. arcadia.pariah@bbcatholic.org.au

We look forward to guiding your children on their faith journey!

DRAFT ROSTER

The draft roster is now **on the sacristy window**. Please take a moment to **check your name** and make any necessary changes.

EASTER DRAFT ROSTER

The **Holy Week draft roster** is also now available at the **sacristy window**.

Please help us out by **adding your name** where you are able to assist. Your support is greatly appreciated as we prepare for this important week!

HEALING MASS



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

**NEXT HEALING MASS:
THURSDAY 9TH OF APRIL 2026**

ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8–12 years
Our Kids Youth Group is back on Fridays!
4.00pm to 5.30pm

As the Youth Group is growing we need helpers please. 16 years old and over.
Over 18s need to have a Working With Children Check. Please contact the parish office.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Easter is rapidly approaching and Term 1 ends on Thursday 2nd April.

Free Ministry Induction training continues. This week's topic is 'Introduction to the Bible' via face-to-face and 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 knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact the parish office or one of our priests.

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



FEEDING THE HOMELESS VOLUNTEERS

I am looking for **10 volunteers** to help feed the homeless.

Date: Saturday, 28th March
Location: 164 Cathedral St, Woolloomooloo
Arrival: 5:30 pm (serving starts at 5:45 pm)

If you would like to help, please contact me and I will add you to the WhatsApp group for coordination.

Thank you for your generosity,
and God bless!

Sam John
0491 031 622



PIETY SHOP NEWS

Support the Carmelite Nuns
Visit the Piety Shop!

We are excited to let you know that a **wider variety of stock** of Little Saints by Norma (plush dolls, keyrings, Bible Verse cards and plaques).

Keep an eye out for T-shirts and hoodies coming soon!

Please **come in and browse**, knowing that your purchases **help our parish community**. Every item you buy makes a difference!

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!

FEAST OF THE WEEK

The Annunciation of the Lord

Feast Day: March 25



***“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.” ~Luke 1:38***

In the fifth century, bishops engaged in a fierce theological debate over the unity of the divine and human natures of Christ, referred to as the “hypostatic union.” Nestorius, the Archbishop of Constantinople, argued that there were two underlying hypostases, or substances, in Christ, one human and one divine. He believed that the humanity of Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, but not His divinity. Therefore, Nestorius believed Mary should only be called the “Christ-bearer” and not the “God-bearer” (Theotokos). Saint Cyril, the Archbishop of Alexandria, argued that the divine and human natures of Jesus were united in one hypostasis. Divinity and humanity were perfectly united and, therefore, Mary is properly called the Theotokos, or “Mother of God,” not just the “Mother of Christ.” God was born of her, not just His body. Mary conceived a Person in her womb, and that Person was both God and man, perfectly united as one. In 431 the Church held a council at Ephesus at which Cyril’s position was adopted and Nestorius’ position was condemned. Nestorius was then removed as Archbishop of Constantinople.

The solemnity we celebrate today originated around the time of this controversy, possibly to emphasize the theological teaching that emerged from the Council of Ephesus. Throughout Church history, when a theological truth is defined, that truth is then celebrated liturgically as a lived expression of the Church’s faith.

The date of this celebration is set nine months before Christmas, but most likely, the date of Christmas was set nine months after the Annunciation. Many early Christians believed that Jesus’ death occurred on March 25; therefore, His Incarnation must have also taken place on this day. As early as the third century, it was suggested that March 25 was also the date of the creation of Adam, the fall of Adam, the fall of the angels, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, and the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord recalls the historical event when the Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, as found in Luke 1:26–38. It also celebrates the Church’s faith in the underlying reality that took place at that moment in time. It celebrates the Incarnation, making this solemnity not only a Marian solemnity, but first and foremost a Christological one. Though Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, the Annunciation commemorates His Incarnation.

Most certainly, this solemnity is also a Marian celebration. We celebrate the Virgin Mary’s perfect “Yes” to the plan of the Father. We celebrate her humility, obedience, docility, and especially her motherhood of God and man. Finally, this solemnity is a celebration of the Father in Heaven because it reveals the beginning of the pinnacle of His perfect plan of salvation. That moment in time, the moment of the Incarnation, holds significance beyond comprehension. This moment was in the Father’s mind from all eternity and took place in a hidden way, known only to this lowly and humble virgin.

Most glorious and ever-virgin Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to you to announce the coming of God within your virginal womb, you humbly inquired how this could be. The Archangel spoke further, and you wholeheartedly assented to this divine mystery. Please pray that I may always consent to God’s will in my life so that your divine Son may also be conceived in my soul to continue His saving work of redemption. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



St Benedict's Country Fete

Sunday 31 May 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

Parish Country Fete Postponement to the 31st of May

Our sincere apologies, but we have had to postpone the Parish Country Fete due to heavy rain leaving our grounds waterlogged. The large trucks would be unable to safely access the site without getting stuck in the mud.

All Major Prize Raffle and Cow Tickets remain valid and are being kept safely. We also encourage you to continue purchasing tickets in the lead-up to the new fete date—your support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you then!

Raffle Tickets: Still plenty of tickets available at the Church entrances to sell – let's spread the excitement far and wide!

Cow Tickets: Still available – get yours today!

- **Donations Needed: Bring FLOWERS for the day, BAKED CAKES, LOLLIES** (need them earlier to put in small bags) for the stalls, and **CRAFT items**, or donate **NEW GIFTS** for the gift stand. **BIG PRIZES** for the chocolate wheel are especially welcome.
- **Volunteers Needed - for HELP HANGING UP SIGNS** the week prior to Fete. We also need **RELIEF VOLUNTEERS** on the day to give our hardworking helpers a chance to enjoy the festivities too. Your support will make the day run smoothly—and it's a fun way to be part of the celebration!

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!

Contact Tania for any information on 0401 597 278

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER
28/3/2026 to 29/3/2026
PALM SUNDAY - YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	George A
Reader1	Natasha S	Donna B	Leeann A
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Sandra M
Dramatized Gospel		Priest Judy H Matt W	Priest Mirko J Maria G
Prayers	Miriam B	Lorraine D	Lorna B
TV		Jules O	Jutrisa Family
EMHC 		Catherine C	Robin B
EMHC 		Sophie R	Bernadette W
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Theresa N	Sandra M
Music		Pauline H	Martina J
Music		Keith W	
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
FLOWERS	No flowers	during lent	

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.

HOLY WEEK EASTER MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday - The Lord's Supper

2 April 2026

Parish 7.30pm

(Monastery no morning Mass)

Stations of the Cross - Good Friday

3 April 2026

Parish 10.30am

(Monastery no morning Mass)

Passion of the Lord - Good Friday

3 April 2026

Parish 3.00pm

Easter Vigil Saturday 4 April 2026

Parish 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 5 April 2026

Monastery 7.00am

Parish 9.00am

Latin 10.30am

DID YOU KNOW...

The Lenten colour purple symbolises repentance, preparation, and spiritual renewal.

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.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: [stbenedictsarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/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.

