St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:
Saturday 7:00pm Vigil
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday 10:30am

Weekdays:
Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am Mass
(Rosary after weekday Masses throughout October)

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am
Adoration & Confession

First Saturday Devotion - 7 November
Honouring the Immaculate Heart of Mary
9:00am Mass
9:30am Adoration, Confession & Cenacle

MONASTERY CHAPEL MASS TIMES
Sunday Mass: 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

ALL SAINTS

YEAR A

OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord,
as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints,
at whose festival the Angels rejoice
and praise the Son of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.
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:
The Beatitudes: A Blessed Life

Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 5:1–12
In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches us that true happiness comes from living with love, humility, mercy and peace. When we follow His teachings, even through life's difficulties, we receive God's blessing and grow closer to Him.

I Reflect
1. *Do I put God first in my life and trust in Him during difficult times?*
2. *Am I gentle and humble in the way I treat others?*
3. *Do I show mercy and forgiveness to those who hurt me?*
4. *Do I try to bring peace and understanding to my family and community?*
5. *Am I willing to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult?*

Prayer
Heavenly Father, help me to live the Beatitudes with a humble heart. Teach me to show mercy, make peace and love others as Jesus loves me. May my words and actions reflect Your goodness each day. Amen.

First Reading
Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 (JB)
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.
I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.
After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'
One of the elders then spoke and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm
Ps 23:1-6 (JB)
R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Second Reading
1 John 3:1-3 (JB)
A reading from the first letter of St John
We shall see God as he really is.
Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL
Matthew 5:1-12 (JB)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

St Benedict's Rule – Chapter 4: The Tools for Good Works
"Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ must come before all else."



READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 / 1 John 3:1-3 / Matthew 5:1-12



ALL SAINTS

Today's readings remind us that we are loved by God and called to become saints.

In **Revelation**, we see a great multitude from every nation standing before God, united in worship and praising Him. In the second reading, St **John** reminds us that we are God's children, called to grow in His love and become more like Him. In the **Gospel**, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, showing us that holiness is found in humility, mercy, gentleness, peacemaking and faithfulness, even during difficult times. The saints were ordinary people who allowed God's grace to transform their lives. We are all called to follow their example and live our faith through the small acts of love and kindness we offer each day.

💡 **Key Thought**: We are all called to holiness by loving God, serving others and living the Beatitudes in our daily lives.

🏡 **Take-Home Challenge**: Choose one Beatitude this week and put it into practice. Be merciful to someone who has hurt you, bring peace to a difficult situation, or show kindness to someone who feels forgotten.

🙏 **Prayer**:
Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us Your children and showing us the path to holiness. Help us to follow the example of the saints, live the Beatitudes with open hearts, and remain faithful to You in all circumstances. May our lives reflect Your love and lead us one day to share in the joy of Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

NOVEMBER 2026

Monday 2 Readings: From the Masses for the dead.
The COMMEMORATION of ALL the FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Soul's Day)

Tuesday 3 Readings: Phil 2:5-11. Lk 14:15-24.
R: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.
St Martin de Porres, religious.

Wednesday 4 Readings: Eph 2:19-22. Lk 6:12-19.
R: Their message goes out through all the earth.
St Charles Borromeo, bishop.
ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC RECONCILIATION.

Thursday 5 Readings: Phil 3:3-8. Lk 15:1-10.
R: Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord.

Friday 6 Readings: Phil 3:17-4:1. Lk 16:1-8.
R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Saturday 7 Readings: Phil 4:10-19. Lk 16:9-15.
R: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Source: Ordo 2026



FEAST DAY 4 NOVEMBER

St Charles Borromeo,
Guide us to live with faith,
humility and love.
Help us serve others
generously and remain
faithful to God. Amen.



POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2026

FOR THE PROPER USE OF WEALTH

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Further to last week's announcement, please note the following parish updates and reminders.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS NEW TIME OF 6PM

New time: 6:00 pm. Commencing **Saturday, 28 November 2026**
Our Saturday Vigil Mass will commence at the new time of 6:00 pm on Saturday, 28 November 2026.



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION SATURDAY

The First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary commencing Saturday 7th of November.

9:00am Mass
9:30am Adoration, Confession & Cenacle.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FINAL CALL!

Pilgrimage AGES 15 TO 35:
26 July – 12 August 2027

Japan, Seoul, Incheon and South Korea

We have four of our youth interested in attending from our parish. If you know anyone who is interested please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

We will be organising fundraisers soon to help them afford their trip.

https://bbwyd27.org.au/

Tuesday, 3 November:
WYD Promotional Session, 5:00 pm, St Agatha's School Hall, Pennant Hills

🛠️ PARISH MORNING TEA ROOM & KITCHEN REFRESH

We are hoping to give our morning tea room and kitchen a fresh new look!

We are inviting any parishioners who may be interested in providing a quote for painting and replacing the flooring.

If you are able to assist or would like more information, please contact Fr Shansana.

Thank you for supporting our parish and helping us keep our facilities welcoming for everyone! 🙏



VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK

Maria Sfirse **Sophie Rebula** **Angela Scotti**

These three lovely ladies were caught in the act on Tuesday morning! Not only did they arrive with beautiful flowers for our church, but they then rolled up their sleeves and got busy sweeping the Sanctuary and cleaning up!

🌷 Flowers delivered? ✔️
🧹 Brooms in action? ✔️
✨ Sanctuary sparkling? ✔️

Ladies, thank you for bringing beauty, a helping hand and plenty of love to our parish — you certainly know how to keep busy! 🌸❤️
You definitely have beautiful hearts, generous spirits and willingness to go the extra mile. Our parish is blessed to have you! ❤️🙏

In Our Parish

Please let us know if there is someone you would like us to pray for.

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, NannaTrani, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappallardo and Shannon Murray.

~ May they rest in Eternal Peace. †

CATECHIST NEWS

Term 4 Classes end on Wednesday 25th and Friday 27th November with Final combined scripture lessons on Wednesday 2nd and Friday 4th December.

New Catechists are needed for 2027, please contact myself or the Parish office if you are interested in becoming a Year 1 or Year 5 teach at Glenorie Public School. Classes are 40mins and run on Wednesdays from 10.50am - 11.30am. Training and manual books are provided.

📖 YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS

Does your child finish Year 6 this year? We invite all Year 6 students who would like to receive a Bible and Certificate to contact the Parish Office.

A special Mass and presentation will be held on Sunday, 6 December, at 10:30am Mass.

We look forward to celebrating this important milestone with our young parishioners! 🙏

God bless,
Martina Jutrisa arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au
Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator 0413 403 767
Parish Office: 9653 2312

ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC RECONCILIATION 4 NOVEMBER

A Call to Christian Unity

Catholics and Anglicans are invited to pray for greater unity, understanding and reconciliation. Although differences remain between our Churches, we share a belief in Jesus Christ and a desire to live according to His Gospel.

May we continue to build bridges of friendship, respect and cooperation, remembering Jesus' prayer: "That they may all be one." (John 17:21)

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, bring all Christians closer together in faith, love and unity. Help us to overcome our differences and work together to share Your love with the world. Amen.*





🎉 ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP 🎉

Calling all kids aged 8–12 years! Come along for fun, friendship and faith as we grow together as a parish family.
Fridays during school term
4:00pm – 5:30pm
For more information,
contact Jules on 0415 448 797. Everyone is welcome!



HEALING MASS

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

NEXT HEALING MASS:
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5

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!



COMMEMORATION

ALL SOULS' DAY

NOVEMBER 2



On All Souls' Day, we turn our eyes from those who are in heaven to those who have gone before us in death before being purified of every venial sin and all of sin's effects. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned." (#1030–31).

All Souls' Day first calls us to pray for those who have died and are being purified in preparation for their entrance into the Beatific Vision. By praying for those in Purgatory, we are assured that God lavishes upon them all that they need for their souls' purification. The Mass, and our participation in it, is the ideal way to open the floodgates of mercy for our loved ones who have died and remain unperfected. Our well-intentioned, but erroneous, Western belief that good people go to heaven immediately after death, or become angels, leaves many souls unprayed for. Those souls depend on our prayers because God wants us to pray for them and lovingly share in their purification.

All Souls' Day's second focus is upon our own souls. The commemoration reminds us of the importance of our ongoing conversion. We are called to be saints. Becoming a saint requires everything from us. It means that we diligently seek out a*nd annihilate every sinful attachment within our souls. We seek God's mercy, confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and change our lives.*

To understand Purgatory, we can study the teachings of Saints John of the Cross and Teresa of Ávila. These two Doctors of the Church wrote extensively about the process a soul goes through on its way to divine union with God. Saint Teresa describes a series of seven interior dwelling places through which a person must travel, each one requiring a deeper level of purification, culminating with the soul entering the innermost dwelling place, where divine union takes place and the soul is fully purified. Only souls who die in the state of divine union will avoid Purgatory's purification.

Saint John of the Cross wrote of the same process, using different terminology. He described two purifications a soul goes through on the journey toward perfection. The first is the dark night of the senses, by which every bodily sense and appetite is purified. The second is the dark night of the spirit, by which the intellect, memory, and will are fully purified by an infusion of faith, hope, and charity. The soul then enters mystical marriage, the same as Saint Teresa's seventh dwelling place.

The reason for this very broad overview is to emphasize that perfection is a long and difficult process, but a necessary one that must take place either in this life or in the next. Personal sanctity must become our first, and exclusive, mission in life. When personal sanctity is our exclusive mission, every other part of our lives falls into place. Virtues grow, love for family and friends increases, duties are perfectly fulfilled, and God is fully glorified.

Most Holy Trinity, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels and saints, I beg for an outpouring of Your Divine Mercy upon every poor soul in Purgatory. Cleanse them all, especially my family and friends who have died, and bring them into the full beauty and splendor of Your presence. Please pour Your mercy down upon my poor soul. Free me from every sin and every attachment to sin. Increase my virtue, and draw me into union with You, my God. Angels and saints of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

CATHOLICCARE PROGRAMS

Crossroads Companions end of life service:
When you receive a terminal diagnosis, life can suddenly feel uncertain and overwhelming. Questions arise, roles change, and you may find yourself moving from one medical team to the next. It's not uncommon to feel as though your whole identity has become centred on illness. CatholicCare's Crossroads Companions end of life program is a non-clinical pastoral support service that walks alongside you during this time. From the moment of diagnosis and throughout your journey, their companions offer a steady, compassionate presence through the ups and downs.
Call 1800 324 924 or visit
https://catholiccaredbb.org.au/aged-care-support-services/crossroad-companions-end-of-life-service/

Support at Home program:
CatholicCare's Support at Home (SaH) services are designed to give seniors the right help at the right time, so you can continue living independently in the place you know and love. Whether you need a little assistance with daily tasks or more regular support to manage your health and wellbeing, CatholicCare are here to make every day easier.
Call 1800 324 924 or visit
https://catholiccaredbb.org.au/aged-care-support-services/support-at-home/

Please join us for our upcoming Maker's Table workshop here at St Benedict's!
Embroidered Christmas Decorations Workshop
Wednesday, November 4th, 2026
7.30-9.30pm in the Parish meeting room.
Cost: $15
(covers materials, refreshments and donation for room hire)

RSVP by 1/11/26
so we can set a special place at the Table for you!

This month we will be making cute Christmas decorations to hang on your Christmas tree! There are 3 designs to make at the workshop (or take home to complete later) and we will learn a few different embroidery techniques as well. All welcome!



themakerstablesydney@gmail.com
Martine 0458-533-250 / Nerida 0425-834-017

PIETY SHOP NEWS

New Products Now Available!

We are delighted to introduce For Little Hearts by Creative Kits 4 Kids, a beautiful faith-inspired collection designed to help children grow closer to Jesus and Mary through prayer, creativity and learning.
Discover our range of Catholic colouring and activity packs, including The Rosary for Little Hearts, The Divine Mercy Chaplet for Little Hearts and The Story of Christmas for Little Hearts, along with our faith-inspired gifts and puzzles.
Perfect for birthdays, Sacraments or simply encouraging little hearts to grow in faith.
Visit our Piety Store to explore the collection and place orders. Creative kids vouchers can also be used to purchase any items from the creative kit 4 kids range. Please see Lila for details.





PARISH ROSTER

NEXT WEEKEND
7/11/2026 to 8/11/2026
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A

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

	SAT 7PM	SUN 9AM	SUN 10:30AM
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader 1	Mary C	Nigel M	John family
Reader 2	Margaret B	Judy H	Lorna B
Prayers	Natasha S	Zachary B	Azzi family
TV		Jules O	Teresa G
EMHC		Pam G	Gebran Z
EMHC		Lorraine D	Lorna B
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Melanie H
Music		John T	Adam F
Music			Martina J Natalie M
Morning Tea		Mel/Teresa M	
Flowers	Souraya K		

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm

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

Like us on Facebook

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

DID YOU KNOW…

The word "Beatitude" means "blessing" or "happiness." In Matthew 5:1–12, Jesus gives us eight Beatitudes, teaching us that true happiness comes from living with humility, mercy, purity of heart and a desire for peace. These are the qualities that help us grow in holiness and become saints!

PALMS TIMOR-LESTE ENCOUNTER

10-23 May 2027!

Discover Timor-Leste with Palms Australia! Join a small group (maximum 8 people) on a 14-day Encounter Tour to experience Timor-Leste's history, culture and community development firsthand. Meet Palms' local partners and volunteers while supporting ethical international development.

Book your place at palms.org.au/encounters.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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.
We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and their enduring connection to Country, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to emerging leaders.

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 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