

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## PARISH MASS TIMES

**ALL WEEKDAY MASSES WILL BE  
HELD AS USUAL DURING  
CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

### 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 for the following:

**BAPTISMS  
RECONCILIATION  
FOR THE SICK  
MARRIAGES  
FUNERALS**

*Parish Priest:*

*Fr Shansana 0437 884 233*



**4 bulletins in 1**  
**\*Christmas\***  
**\*The Holy Family\***  
**\*Epiphany\***  
**\*Baptism of the Lord\***

**Year A**

**24th December 2025 to 11th of January 2026**



***Joy to the world, the Lord has come!***

**On behalf of St Benedict's Parish Arcadia,  
we would like to extend our warmest wishes  
to each and every one of you for a very  
Merry Christmas!**

**May the Infant Jesus bless you abundantly  
and fill your hearts with His boundless love  
and joy.**

**We pray that you have a Christmas that is  
both blessed and safe, surrounded by peace,  
hope, and happiness.**

**With warmest blessings,  
St Benedict's Parish Arcadia**

**First Reading** *Isaiah 52:7-10* (DAY)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

**Second Reading** *Hebrews 1:1-6*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** *John 1:1-18 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God.

His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received—yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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





**First Reading** *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 (Year A) (JB)*

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

*Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy; with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,

do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

There she left him, for the Lord.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R.** Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**Second Reading** *Colossians 3:12-21 (Year A) (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (Year A) (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.*

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

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

**First Reading** *Isaiah 60:1-6 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

**Second Reading** *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** *Matthew 2:1-12 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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



**First Reading** *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 (Year A) (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.  
He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.  
Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.  
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;  
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people  
and light of the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,

and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

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

**Second Reading** *Acts 10:34-38 (Year A) (JB)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

*Matthew 3:13-17 (Year A) (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

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





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST - FATHER SHANSANA

### A Heartfelt Thank You To:

- All our cherished parishioners.
- Our generous benefactors, donors, and volunteers.
- The dedicated fundraisers, with special thanks to **Lila Bacha** for her incredible work with the **Piety Shop** and all her **helpers**, and thank you to all the **Kids Markets** organisers.
- Parish staff: **Karen Price, Mary Cascun, Joe Gatt, and Paula El-Chaar.**
- Catechists, with a special mention to **Miriam Brown**, coordinating the catechists and also helping in the office.
- Our youth group coordinators, **Gabrielle Wall** and **Jules Ozolins**, for their dedication and generous commitment of time to our youth throughout the year.
- Members of the Pastoral Parish Council and Parish Finance Committee.
- Our talented musicians, **Noelle Takchi and Rebecca Raad** and choirs, with special appreciation for **Melanie Hume** for coordinating their efforts and big job with the rosters and helping out in the office.
- Those who supported the Sacramental Program, especially **Gebzan Azzi and Tanya John** for teaching the children.
- Our Senior Servers: **George Arcella, Paul Camilleri, Lorraine Dailey, Paul El-Chaar, Nigel Morgan.**
- Our numerous volunteers who help out immensely whenever we need it! Too many to name!

### A Special Note of Gratitude:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Reverend Fathers David, Michael, Bernard, and Eugene** for their unwavering support and dedication to meeting the needs of our parish. Your tireless efforts and commitment to our spiritual community are deeply appreciated. May God bless you always, and may you continue to inspire and lead us in faith.

As we step into 2026, let us continue to come together in faith and unity to build up our parish community spiritually and socially.

**May God bless your kindness and generosity!**

**Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB**

## PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICE

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE **CLOSED FROM MONDAY, 22ND DECEMBER 2025,**  
AND WILL **REOPEN ON FRIDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2026.**  
FOR ANYTHING **URGENT**, CONTACT FR SHANSANA.

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Thursday	December 25, 2025:	<b>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</b>
Friday	December 26, 2025:	<b>St Stephen, the first Martyr</b>
Saturday	December 27, 2025:	<b>St John, apostle, evangelist</b>
Sunday	December 28, 2025:	<b>The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH</b>
Monday	December 29, 2025:	<b>5TH DAY IN THE Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b>
Tuesday	December 30, 2025:	<b>6TH DAY IN THE Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b>
Wednesday	December 31, 2025:	<b>7TH DAY IN THE Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</b>
Thursday	January 1, 2026:	<b>MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD</b>
Friday	January 2, 2026:	<b>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors</b>
Saturday	January 3, 2026:	<b>Saturday before the Epiphany</b>
Sunday	January 4, 2026:	<b>The EPHIPHANY of the LORD</b>

## ***GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!***

**My precious Lord Jesus,**

I adore You with all my heart and rejoice in the wondrous celebration of Your birth.  
Your love for us is boundless—glorious, transformative, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal.  
You chose to humble Yourself, to dwell among us, and to be born into poverty, rejection, and humility.

Yet, Your mother, Mary, knew the greatness of the Child she bore.

Her heart overflowed with tender love as she gazed upon her Son—her God.

Help me, dear Lord, to love You with the heart of Your mother.

Invite me into the joy of adoration with St. Joseph and the humble shepherds.

Open my eyes to the wondrous glory and power of Your birth,  
and transform my life through this perfect gift of Yourself.

I love You, dear Lord Jesus.

I long to love You with all my heart.

Newborn Savior of the World, I trust in You.

Mother Mary and St. Joseph, pray for me and for all.

Amen.





# CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Vigil  
Wednesday 24th Dec 2025  
7.00pm & 11.30pm  
(Midnight Mass commences 11.45pm)

Christmas Day  
Thursday 25th Dec 2025  
9.00am  
10.30am Latin Mass

### FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Saturday Vigil 27th Dec 2025  
7.00pm  
Sunday 28th Dec 2025  
9.00am & 10.30am  
4.30pm Latin Mass

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God  
Thursday 1st Jan 2026  
9.30am

### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday Vigil 3rd Jan 2026  
7.00pm  
Sunday 4th Jan 2026  
9.00am & 10.30am  
4.30pm Latin Mass

### FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday Vigil 10th Jan 2026  
7.00pm  
Sunday 11th Jan 2026  
9.00am & 10.30am  
4.30pm Latin Mass

### MONASTERY CHAPEL

Daily as usual  
7.00am



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm  
(Parish Office: Closed from Monday, 22nd December 2025, and will reopen on Friday, 30th January 2026)  
Parish Office: 02 9653 2312  
Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159  
Email: [arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
Website: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)  
Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
Email: [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com)  
After hours: 0437 884 233  
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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.

