

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



To desire eternal life with all spiritual longing.
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am
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**

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

*Father Shansana is away from the 4th of January to the 25th January 2023.
For anything urgent contact
Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.*

**Christmas
The Holy Family
New Year's Day
Epiphany**

Year A

24th December 2022 to 8th of January 2023

*Gloria,
in excelsis Deo!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Joy to the world,
the Lord Has Come!**

**On behalf of St Benedict's Parish Arcadia
we would like to wish you all a very
Merry Christmas!**

**May the infant Jesus bless you all and fill you
with His love and Joy!**

**Have a blessed Christmas
and a wonderful New Year!**

CHRISTMAS**The Nativity of the LORD****24th & 25th December 2022****Entrance Antiphon**

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

First Reading*Isaiah 52:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of
our God.*

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 97:1-6*

**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.

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*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we saw his glory.*

Communion Antiphon

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

**THE HOLY FAMILY****Of Jesus, Mary and Joseph****30th December 2022****Entrance Antiphon**

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph
and the Infant lying in a manger.

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.

Responsorial Psalm*Ps 127:1-5 (Year A) (JB)*

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

Gospel Acclamation

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.

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



NEW YEAR'S DAY
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 1st January 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,
 who rules heaven and earth for ever.

First Reading

Numbers 6:22-27 (JB)

A reading from the book of Numbers
*They will call down my name on the children of Israel
 and I will bless them.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (JB)

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians
*When the appointed time came,
 God sent his son, born of a woman.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors
 through the prophets;
 now he speaks to us through his Son.
 Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:16-21 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant
 lying in the crib ...When the eighth day came they gave
 him the name of Jesus.*

Communion Antiphon

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.



**THE EPIPHANY
 OF THE LORD**
 8th January 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
 and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 (JB)

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.*

Gospel Acclamation

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.

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the East,
 and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Sunday December 25 2022

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 97:1-6 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

Merry Christmas! Everyone here at *The Word Among Us* wishes you God's abundant blessings as you celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Word of God, who became flesh and dwelled among us.

When John speaks of Jesus as "the Word," he isn't referring to the close to thirty thousands words that the average person hears each day. Most of these words go in one ear and out the other. But some stick with us and shape the way we think and the choices we make. These are the words that matter.

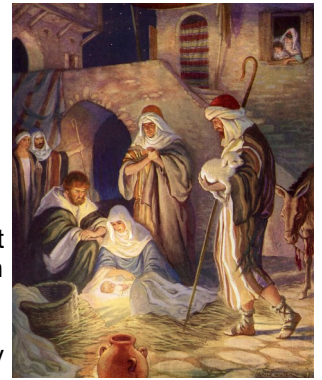
On this Christmas Day, St. John tells us of one Word that matters more than any other word we'll ever hear. It's Jesus, the *living* Word of God, who gives life to everything in the universe (John 1:3). He is the *divine* Word who imparts God's "grace and truth" to us (1:15). He is the *holy* Word who "shines in the darkness" to deliver us from sin and death (1:5). He is the *eternal* Word who "was made flesh" and who has "made his dwelling among us" (1:14).

Today can be a noisy day. We'll be making a joyful noise as we sing "Glory to God in the highest" and "Joy to the World" at Mass. Many of us will be part of the controlled chaos involved in unwrapping gifts and coming together for family celebrations. Who knows? We may hear as many as forty or fifty thousand words today! Of course, this is right and good. But at the center of it all is Jesus, the Word of God who came to speak life, healing, joy, and peace into our world.

As noisy as today may be, make sure you set aside time to sit quietly and listen for Jesus' voice. Welcome him into your heart. Let him share the good news of salvation with you. Let him tell you again that he loves you.

"Jesus, Word of the Father, come and speak your words of grace and peace to my heart."

Source: Word Among Us. India pg. 25



Friday December 30 2022

THE HOLY FAMILY

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 128:1-5 Matthew 21:13-15, 19-23

Take care of your father when he is old. (Sirach 3:12)

Doesn't today's first reading paint a beautiful picture of family life? Parents eagerly welcome their newborn baby into their hearts and home. They take care of that child's every need until she is able to live on her own. The child, in turn, honors and respects her parents, and when they grow old and become unable to care for themselves, she steps in and cares for them.

Of course, we know that it doesn't always work out that way, often through no fault of our own. But we can still form the circle of love that God desires every time we follow his call to "take care" of one another (Sirach 3:12).

On this feast of the Holy Family, let's consider what it means to take care of our loved ones. Of course, it starts with making sure that they are physically safe and healthy. But it goes far beyond that. "Taking care" means being aware of their feelings and paying attention to how our words and actions affect them. It means being patient when they are slow to learn or unable to do things for themselves. It means doing all we can to share our faith and enable them, whenever possible, to practice theirs. It means telling them how much we appreciate them. It means forbearing when they annoy us and forgiving them when they hurt us. And it means interceding for all their needs.

So take care of your children, your parents, your siblings. Take care of them when they are too young or too old to take care of themselves. Take care of them when they are ill or troubled. Take care of them when it's a delight and when it's a sacrifice.

This is a high calling, and we may fail at it sometimes. That's all the more reason to ask Jesus, who experienced family life himself, for the grace to keep forming this circle of love—day by day, week by week, year by year. Let's also ask Mary and Joseph to pray for us. May our care for one another bind us together in the Lord all the days of our lives!

"Father, thank you for the gift of my family. Help me to care for them as you care for me."

Source: Word Among Us. India pg. 30

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Sunday January 1 2023

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6, 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God. (Luke 2:20)

Today, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of God, the one who brought the Son of God into the world. And as much as we honor Mary today, we also honor Jesus, her divine Son.

At first glance, it may seem odd that today's Gospel focuses on the shepherds who came to see the newborn Jesus and left praising God. But surely Mary would want us to join them in their songs of praise! In everything she did, Mary led people to glorify her Son for the salvation he would win for them.

In every age, Mary has sought to bring all people to Jesus and to urge them to praise and worship him. In fact, it's probably her greatest desire for us as we begin a new year. She knows that we have so many reasons to praise her Son. We can praise him for becoming a man and teaching us to pray. We can adore him for offering himself on the cross to save us. We can glorify him for giving us his Spirit and making us children of God. We can *never* run out of reasons to praise Jesus!

So, make this your goal: to praise Jesus more in 2023. It's not always easy to include praise in your daily prayer, especially if you're not accustomed to it. You might not know what to say. But you can begin by thanking Jesus for your blessings. You can also praise him for forgiving your sins. And you can rejoice in his faithfulness and unending love.

As you add praise to your prayer, you can always ask Mary, Mother of God and your Mother, for help. You can use the Magnificat, her own song of praise, as a model as you set out to magnify the Lord (Luke 1:46-55). And you can take comfort in knowing that Mary is praising Jesus right along with you—all year long!

“My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord! My spirit rejoices in you, my Savior!”

Source: Word Among Us. India pg. 32

Sunday January 8 2022

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

The star . . . stopped over the place where the child was. (Matthew 2:9)



Imagine how difficult the Magi's journey was. If they came from Persia, as most scholars believe, they would have had to travel nearly one thousand miles. That's four months on the road. Traveling all that time with treasures like gold, frankincense, and myrrh would have made them ripe targets for brigands and highway robbers. And then there were the general conditions, "the ways deep and the weather sharp," as the poet T.S. Eliot put it. How many times do you think they were tempted to turn around and return home?

To add insult to injury, when they came to Jerusalem, they discovered there was no "newborn king of the Jews" to be found (Matthew 2:2). They had to go to Bethlehem and "search diligently" for him there (2:8).

What a model of faithfulness and perseverance! And these were pagans who didn't even worship the God of Israel! On this day, when we celebrate the first Gentiles to worship the Lord Jesus, let's follow their example on our own journey toward Jesus.

When the way of discipleship seems too deep and the weather too sharp, picture the Magi trudging over miles and miles, determined to get to Jesus.

When the lies of the devil or the allure of the world try to rob you of your faith, picture the Magi guarding their treasures.

When the road to holiness turns out to be longer than you thought it would be, or when it takes an unexpected turn, picture the Magi pressing on to Bethlehem to seek the Christ child.

The Magi were "overjoyed" when they found the Lord (Matthew 2:10). Similarly, your perseverance will be rewarded with the deep-down joy that comes from knowing the overflowing love of Jesus. Surely this is a journey worth taking!

“Jesus, help me to persevere so that I can behold your glory!”

Source: Word Among Us. India pg. 39

**PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FROM THE 24TH DECEMBER, REOPENS 13TH JANUARY.
DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY ONLY OPEN ON FRIDAYS FROM THE 13TH.
FOR ANYTHING URGENT CONTACT FR HILARION ON 0478 909 541.**

**NEXT DRAFT ROSTER WILL BE DISPLAYED ON SACRISTY WINDOW
ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY**

Parish Roster

ROSTER WEEKEND OF: 31/12/2022 to 1/1/2023 MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD YEAR A			
	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	Paul E
Reader1	Miriam B	Peter G	Volunteer
Reader2	Mary C	Roza N	Volunteer
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Kath M	Paula E
TV		Mary A	
Music		Mark Q	
Music		Robin B	
Music		Theresa N	
Music		Marisa Q	
Morning Tea		Lila B	
FLOWERS	Rose G		

ROSTER WEEKEND OF: 7/1/2023 to 8/1/2023 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY YEAR A			
	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Mary C	Volunteer	Lorna B
Reader2	Maria G	Volunteer	Matt W
Prayers	Miriam B	Volunteer	Teresa G
TV		Nigel M	Sebastian W
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Keith W
Music		John T	
Music			
Morning Tea		Rosie S	
FLOWERS	Mona M		

Glory to God in the highest!

*My precious Lord, Jesus,
I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth.
Your love for us is unfathomable,
it is glorious, transforming, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal.*

*You chose to come and dwell among us,
being born into poverty, rejection and humility.
Yet Your mother knew whom she bore,
Her heart was filled with the tenderest love as she adored her Child and her God.*

*Help me, dear Lord,
to come to love You with the heart of Your mother.
Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds.
Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth and change my life on account of
this perfect gift of Yourself.*

*I love You, dear Lord Jesus.
Help me 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.*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CALF & RAFFLE WINNERS:

CALF WINNER: Chloe Sakkal

RAFFLES (9 hampers):

Rita Sarkis

Mary Abood

David Remaili

Pauline Zady

Zdenka Sarkis

Hilda Abood

Ramza Saliba

Kevin Brown

Mick Stanton



Winners have all been notified.

A big thank you to Lila Bacha, Robin Barbara, Rosie Sakkal and Mary Abood for helping out with the raffles. They raised the total amount of \$8,050. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and dedication to our parish! Also thank you to all who donated the prizes and especially a big thanks to Father Bernard donating the calf!

The Piety Stall, from December 2021 to December 2022, organised by Lila Bacha raised a total amount of \$8258.10! What an amazing achievement! Great work Lila, sacrificing your time and effort!

Thank you to everyone who helped out by buying tickets, purchasing beautiful items from the Piety and Cake stall, helping on the stalls and the support to our beautiful parish community! God bless you all!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S & EPIPHANY MASS TIMES

PARISH:

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday Vigil

Saturday 24th Dec 2022: 7pm & 11.30pm (*Midnight Mass*)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th Dec 2022: 9am & 10.30am (*Latin*)

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Friday 30th Dec 2022: 7pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

Saturday 31st Dec 2022: 7pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God

Sunday 1st Jan 2023: 9am, 10.30am & 4.30pm (*Latin Mass*)

EPIPHANY VIGIL

Saturday 7th Jan 2023: 7pm

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday 8th Jan 2023: 9am, 10.30am & 4.30pm (*Latin Mass*)

FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday 9th Jan 2023: 9.30am

MONASTERY:

Daily as usual 7am



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help:

Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

PARISH HOURS

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

*(Closed from 26th December, reopens 13th January.
During the month of January only open Fridays from the 13th.
For anything urgent please contact Fr Hilarion 0478 909 541).*

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Parish Administrator: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233

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Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia
Facebook: stbenedict sarcadia

MONASTERY: 9653 1159

BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141
Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety
and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:**
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.