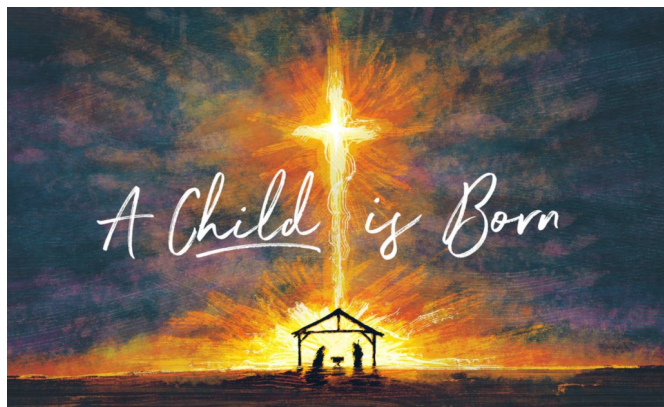


# *St Benedict's Parish*

## *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 24th January 2024.  
For anything urgent contact  
Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.***

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

**Year B**

**24th December 2023 to 7th of January 2024**

*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 2023******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******31st December 2023******Entrance Antiphon***

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

***First Reading****Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 (Year B) (JB)*

A reading from the book of Genesis  
*Your own son shall be your heir.*

***Responsorial Psalm****Ps 104:1-6, 8-9 (Year B) (JB)*

**R.** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

***Second Reading****Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 (Year B) (JB)*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews  
*The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.*

***Gospel Acclamation***

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

***Gospel****Luke 2:22, 39-40 (Year B) (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

***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 2024

**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**  
 7th January 2024

**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



**Monday, December 25**

### **NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98:1-6 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18 (or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14)**

*Let all the angels of God worship him. (Hebrews 1:6)*

Merry Christmas! On this most joyous day, let's join with the angels and worship our newborn King. *Glory to God in the highest!*

*"We praise you, Jesus, Son of God! You came down from heaven to earth! You emptied yourself and became a helpless child to save us. We behold you, asleep beside Mary and Joseph on a bed of straw. The choirs of angels praise you, Lord, and we join with them. We bow down in awe before the humility and love you showed when you took on our human flesh. We thank you, Lord, that you became a son of man so that we might become sons and daughters of God.*

*"We bless you, Jesus, Mighty Savior! In you the kindness and generous love of God has appeared. You have come to your people Israel and set them free. Even more, you come to show mercy to all nations. Every person on earth can find salvation in you. You come to comfort all who mourn, to raise up all who are bowed down. And you do all this by offering yourself in love. Thank you, Lord, for saving us by your grace!*

*"We adore you, Jesus, Light of the World! We, the people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light in you. Your glorious light shines in the darkest corners of our world—and of our hearts. No power of evil can prevent your love from reaching us, your sons and daughters. We praise you for this holy day when your light dawned up on the earth!*

*"We glorify you, Jesus, Emmanuel! You are God-with-us. We are never alone! You have joined yourself to us in an unbreakable bond. You dwell within us and will never leave us! You promise to be with us always—even to the end of time! Thank you, Jesus, for your faithful love!*

***"Glory to God in the highest! Praise to Jesus, born for us this day!"***

Source: Word Among Us. India



**Sunday, December 31**

### **THE HOLY FAMILY**

**Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 128:1-5 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:22-40**

*The child's father and mother were amazed. (Luke 2:33)*

"Amazed." That's how Mary and Joseph reacted when Simeon said that their son would be "a light for revelation" and "glory . . . for Israel" (Luke 2:32). They knew that Jesus was special, but seeing a prayerful, holy man treat him with such awe and reverence left them speechless. Who was this child whom God had given them?

This is a perfect image for today's feast of the Holy Family. For all that Mary and Joseph had already experienced, Jesus was still a mystery to them. And he would continue to be a mystery. They would be "astonished" when they found him, at twelve years old, debating with the scribes in the Temple (Luke 2:48). Surely Mary was surprised when Jesus seemed to rebuke her for trying to see him (8:19-21). And imagine her shock when she saw him crucified!

So how did Mary and Joseph respond to the great mystery of their child? With prayerful, open hearts. Luke says that Mary—undoubtedly along with her husband—reflected "in her heart" every time a new challenge arose (2:19). They knew they didn't have all the answers. They needed to be open to God's plan for Jesus rather than respond quickly and rashly based on their own ideas.

What a model for us! Whether we are relating to our parents, our spouse, or our children, we should always approach them with a sense of awe and humility. Because they are "wonderfully made" by God himself, they deserve to be treated with respect and honor (Psalm 139:14). May we never try to impose our plans on them. May we instead be open to God's work in them and love them as he loves them.

Amazed. Prayerful. Humble. Imagine how much peace could flow in families this coming year if we all followed the Holy Family's example!

***"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for all families this year!"***

Source: Word Among Us. India



## GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

Monday, January 1

### MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalms 67:2-3, 5-6, 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-22



*Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)*

In today's Gospel, we find Mary quietly reflecting on all that has led up to the birth of her son. The search for a place to stay, giving birth in a stable, the visit of shepherds—it was a lot to take in. But rather than grumble, Mary chooses to *reflect* on these bewildering events.

We also find the shepherds “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen” (Luke 2:20). As heaven breaks into their lives, these ordinary men respond with great joy and excitedly tell everyone they meet about the newborn Savior and the angels' message.

Are you more likely to ponder or to proclaim? Are you excitedly telling everyone your hopes and dreams for the year? Or are you quietly contemplating the events around you and the stirrings of your own heart? Both responses are appropriate. You may even choose both in the same day!

Like Mary, you can reflect on: how God has surprised you in the past year. Any questions or prayers that you are asking the Lord to answer in the coming year. Like the shepherds, you can share with others a grace that you saw in your life in the past year. Words from Scripture or the Mass that have special meaning to you.

Mary, Mother of God, brought forth Jesus into the world. Now you, too, have the opportunity to bring him forth as you turn your heart to him and share his goodness with those around you.

***“Lord, I surrender this year to you. I trust you to lead me in wonder and joy to your perfect plans for me.”***

Source: Word Among Us. India

Sunday, January 7

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



*They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Matthew 2:11)*

In your high school English class, you might have learned that an “epiphany” is the moment when a character is struck with a life-changing realization that changes the rest of the story. Every good novel has one. That's one way to think about the feast we're celebrating today. God revealed himself to the Gentiles, and that moment changed everything.

There had been hints of God welcoming the Gentiles throughout the Old Testament. But Matthew's Gospel shows us this pivotal moment: pagan astrologers from the East came to worship Jesus, the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:11). They are the first of “the nations” whom Isaiah prophesied would walk by the Lord's light (Isaiah 60:3). They are the first of those Paul says will be “coheirs. . . in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Ephesians 3:6).

Why is that event so important? Because it reveals to us that God's love is far more expansive than anyone had ever thought. We begin to see that in Christ, a loving relationship with God is open to *everyone* who comes to him, Jew or Gentile. That includes you! And your annoying cousin. And the notorious criminal on death row. And the atheist on that YouTube channel. The invitation to come to Jesus extends to everyone. Because God's loving desire to draw all people to himself cannot be contained; no one is excluded from it. And that's a life-changing realization!

Today, as you celebrate this great feast, give thanks to God who loves so extravagantly that he opens his arms wide to welcome everyone who believes. Pray, too, that all people will come to the Lord.

***“Lord God, your revelation to the Gentiles has changed the course of history! Thank you for your love that reaches out to everyone!”***

Source: Word Among Us. India

**PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED FROM THE 23RD DECEMBER, REOPENS 19TH JANUARY.  
DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY ONLY OPEN ON FRIDAYS FROM THE 19TH.  
FOR ANYTHING URGENT CONTACT FR HILARION ON 0478 909 541.**

**NEW ROSTER IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE SACRISTY WITH YOUR NAME  
PLEASE COLLECT IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

## *Parish Roster*

<b>ROSTER WEEKEND OF: 30/12/2023 TO 31/12/2023 HOLY FAMILY YEAR B</b>			
	<b>Saturday 7pm</b>	<b>Sunday 9am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Nigel M	
<b>Reader1</b>	Maria G	Kath M	Lorna B
<b>Reader2</b>	Mary C	Matt W	Teresa G
<b>Prayers</b>	Margaret B	Peter G	Michael E
<b>TV</b>		Sebastian W	Mary A
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Karina S
<b>Music</b>		Keith W	John T
<b>Music</b>		Helen F	Noelle T
<b>Music</b>		Pauline H	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Tania T	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Rose G		

<b>ROSTER WEEKEND OF: 6/1/2024 TO 7/1/2024 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B</b>			
	<b>Saturday 7pm</b>	<b>Sunday 9am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Paul E	
<b>Reader1</b>	Miriam B	Judy H	Michael E
<b>Reader2</b>	Kathryn S	Ann L	Fogarty Family
<b>Prayers</b>	Sr Carol T	Kath M	Fogarty family
<b>TV</b>		Jules O	Xavier F
<b>Music</b>		Karina S	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Noelle T	Adam F
<b>Music</b>		John T	
<b>Music</b>			
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Rosie S	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Mona M		

**ROSTER WEEKEND OF:  
13/1/2024 TO 14/1/2024  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Acolyte</b>		Lorraine D	
<b>Reader1</b>	Margaret B	Rebecca R	Fogarty family
<b>Reader2</b>	Maria G	Judy H	Fogarty family
<b>Prayers</b>	Miriam B	Ann L	Fogarty family
<b>TV</b>		Roderick R	Xavier F
<b>Music</b>		Karina S	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Noelle T	Adam F
<b>Music</b>		John T	
<b>Music</b>			
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Teresa G	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Tania T		

**PRAYER REQUEST**

Prayers for the repose of Tim Hewitt.  
Tim's one year **Anniversary** of his death occurs  
on Saturday 23rd December 2023



**TIM HEWITT**



*Eternal Rest grant to him O Lord,  
And let the Perpetual light shine upon him,  
May he Rest in Peace.  
Amen*

*Our prayers and thoughts are with  
Petrea and family.*

**REST IN PEACE**

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:



**CORNELIUS WOODBURY**



*Eternal Rest grant to him O Lord,  
And let the Perpetual light shine upon him,  
May he Rest in Peace.  
Amen*

*Our prayers and thoughts are with  
Mathew Woodbury family and friends.*

## In Our Parish for the past year 2023:

We welcome into God's family, all who were baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, *especially Brother Mario & Brother Terry and Jenny Taylor and all who need our prayers.*

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

*especially Cornelius Woodbury (Matt's father), Luigi Bisoglio, Peter Sullivan, Mary Hackett,*

*Charlie Camilleri and the one year anniversary of Tim Hewitt.*

*May they rest in Peace.*

### PARISH NOTICE

Thursday 28th of December 2023, the parish morning Mass will be at 9am due to a funeral (instead of 9.30am).  
Children will be blessed at this 9am Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocence.

Parish office will be **closed** from the 23rd December 2023, **opens** on the 19th January 2024.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PARISH MASS TIMES



### PARISH:

Saturday Vigil 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023: 7.00pm

Sunday Mass 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023: 9.00am & 10.30am  
4.30pm (Latin)

### Christmas EVE Vigil

Sunday 24th Dec 2023: 7.00pm  
11.30pm (Midnight Mass)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25th Dec 2023: 9.00am & 10.30am (Latin Mass)

### FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Saturday Vigil 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023: 7.00pm  
Sunday 31st Dec 2023: 9.00am & 10.30am  
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God

Monday 1st Jan 2023: 9.30am

### EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday Vigil 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024: 7pm  
Sunday 7th Jan 2024: 9.00am & 10.30am  
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

### FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday 8th Jan 2023: 9.30am

### MONASTERY:

Daily as usual 7.00am

## 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.

## 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 23rd December, reopens 19th January.  
During the month of January only open Fridays from the 19th.  
For anything urgent please contact Fr Hilarion 0478 909 541).

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312  
Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

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

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159  
Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia  
Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

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.