

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia

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



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

Church Attendance:
One person per 4sqm,
maximum 150-200 people.

MASKS are to be worn.

QR CODE is available.
Otherwise please write your name
And phone number when you enter
Church after sanitizing and wearing a mask.

PARISH MASSES

Weekend Mass:

Saturday	7:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
Sunday	10:30am
Sunday Latin	4.30pm

Weekday Mass:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 7:00pm followed by Confession
First Friday of the month 6.30pm Adoration

MONASTERY CHAPEL Mass

Sundays	7:00am
Daily	7:00am

Please contact Father Bernard for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

Fr Bernard: 0416 032 497

Christmas & the Holy Family Year B

24th to 27th
December 2020



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 and safe Christmas!

CHRISTMAS DAY
 24th & 25th December 2020

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
 26th & 27th December 2020

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
 and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
 let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
*The kingdom of David will be established for ever
 in the sight of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now re-vealed.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
 may His will for me be done.
 Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
You will conceive and bear a son.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
 Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

CHRISTMAS day Gospel reading**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.

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.**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Gospel reading (Sunday)****Luke 2:22, 39-40**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To do no wrong to anyone, and to bear patiently wrongs done to oneself.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2020

FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER

*We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ
be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.*

AMEN



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Stephen, Deacon, the First Martyr

c. Early First Century–c. 36

Feast Day: December 26

Patron Saint of deacons, altar servers, stonemasons, and headaches

Stephen is described as “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit” ([Acts 6:5](#)) who is one of the first seven deacons of the Church, ordained into Holy Orders by the very hands of the Apostles to assist them in their priestly ministry. Stephen was “full of grace and power” and performed “great wonders and signs among the people” ([Acts 6:8](#)). But his success provoked jealousy and hatred among his former fellow Jews, who slandered and distorted his words so grievously that Stephen was arrested by the Sanhedrin. What the Jewish leaders could not accomplish by argument, they would accomplish by force. Stephen gave a long and impassioned speech to the Jewish Council explaining how his belief in Christ fulfilled God’s plans for the Jews as foretold by Abraham and Moses and as embodied in Solomon’s temple. As Stephen’s words poured out, they spilled like fuel on his enemies’ burning rage.

When Stephen called them Christ’s “betrayers and murderers,” the Jewish leaders “became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen” ([Acts 7:52–54](#)). Stephen then “gazed into heaven and saw...Jesus standing at the right hand of God” ([Acts 7:55](#)). The Lord whom the Creed describes as “seated at the right hand of the Father” seems indignant and rises from His throne at the injustice He sees unfolding below. Stephen is forcibly dragged out of Jerusalem and stoned to death, with the future Saint Paul a witness, if not a participant, to the brutal event. Stephen’s last words were to beg forgiveness of God for his attackers. Stephen’s death was not the result of a pogrom or mob violence. The Acts of the Apostles describes it as a quasi-judicial capital case presided over by Jewish authorities, perhaps in the power vacuum between Pontius Pilate leaving Palestine and the replacement governor’s arrival.

Devotion to the protomartyr Stephen was likely immediate, and he became an icon of Christian sacrifice throughout Roman times and beyond. Saint Paul continued viciously persecuting the Church until his conversion on the road to Damascus. But after his conversion, Saint Paul paradoxically carried out the mission of the man whose death he personally witnessed. Saint Paul brings the Gospel to the Gentiles, the non-Hebrews. Saint Paul goes to the Greeks, Stephen’s own people, and to the Latin speakers of Rome. The blood of Stephen watered Paul’s seed of faith. And the plant that grew from that seed gripped the soil the world over. Stephen died so that the faith could live. In this he emulated Christ Himself.

Saint Stephen, may your courage, conviction, and knowledge of Scripture inspire all teachers and apologists to likewise convince through their education, through their passion, and mostly through their example of noble suffering. AMEN.

Source of content: mycatholic.life

Please contact parish office if you would like us to add to the below to pray for someone

Call 9653 2312 or email: arcadia.pariah@bigpond.com

In Our Parish

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

We welcome into God’s family to all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish.

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND
2nd & 3rd January 2021

2/1/21 to 3/1/21 – Epiphany of the Lord Year B		
	7.00 p.m.	9.00 a.m
A		Lorraine Dailey
R1		Nigel Morgan
R2	Maria Gambino	Kath Moran
P	Mary Cascun	
TV		
M		Melanie Hume
M		Theresa Neely
M		Karen DeSouza
CT		

We are also in urgent need of **Saturday night Acolytes** please. If you are interested in becoming an Acolyte please contact Father Bernard.

MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

Diocese of Broken Bay

The Marriage Tribunal in the Diocese of Broken Bay is a service of the Diocese to assist with the pastoral care of:

- divorced persons seeking to remarry in the Catholic Church;
- divorced and remarried persons seeking to have their marriage recognised in the Catholic Church;
- divorced persons seeking clarification of their standing in the Catholic Church for peace of conscience or for reassurance in developing relationships in the future.

Marriage Tribunal Contact Details

Diocesan Director: Fr Julian Wellspring JV
Administrative Assistant: Mrs Alda Mendezona
Phone: 9307 8309
Email: tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au
Postal address:
Level 7
Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

The Marriage Tribunal will reopen on Monday, 4 January 2021.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.
For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every Friday night after 7pm Mass, and Wednesday mornings after 9.30am Mass.
Everyone welcome.
For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CATECHIST NEWS

All Scripture (SRE) classes are now finished. Wishing all our Catechists and families a blessed Christmas and a safe and restful holiday season.

God bless,

Miriam Brown 9652 0558 or srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



SUMMER NIGHTS 2021 (YOUTH)

The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of COVID, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021.

There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week):

Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm) &
Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)

COVID-safe dinner is provided each day.

For age 16-35 year olds.

The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day.

It will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat centre. A stage will be brought in to hold all the sessions. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community.

For more information and to Register: www.summerschool.org.au.

BENEDICTINE NUNS JAMBEROO ONLINE RETREATS

The Benedictine Nuns of Jamberoo are beginning to offer online retreats. Our upcoming retreat is titled:

Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days

Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ.

The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

For more information and other retreats, go to the following link on our website:

www.jamberooabbey.org.au - click on **Retreats**



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods

21 December 2020

Vox Episcopi - The Voice of the Bishop

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Driving along the Pacific Highway heading towards Chatswood this morning, I saw a sign that said, "Faith does not make things easy, but it does make things possible." I paused for a moment to acknowledge the truth behind this simple statement, and then I delighted as I realised that the sign was on our Catholic parish property at Pymble. I was delighted because tens of thousands of people pass by that sign every day, and the message that they receive is one that is needed in these challenging times.

Throughout our community of the Church of Broken Bay, many people have been caught up in the latest episode of COVID. I am very conscious of our communities on the Northern Beaches, especially the vulnerable and the infirm. In solidarity with the parishes of the Northern Beaches, we pray for the safety and wellbeing of all people in the community. Our experience over this year has taught us how best to respond and how to be responsible citizens. I urge everyone to follow the good practices that we have undertaken throughout this time of trial. I also urge you to pray, to keep faith, and to hold fast to our Christian hope. As the Pymble Parish sign reminds us, it does not make it easy, but it is possible to rise above the immediate challenge. What is important is that we do not abandon each other, especially those who are in need.

I realise that there might be some confusion around our celebrations for Christmas, and I would ask you to stay connected to your communities for the correct flow of information. As the Government attempts to manage the general situation, the Diocese will facilitate the communication amongst our community of the Church. Please exercise the gift of patience and be reassured that the safe celebration of the Nativity of the Lord is my highest priority for you.

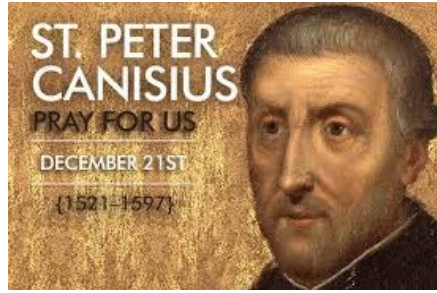
In these final days of Advent, may the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, intercede for us and for the whole world, as we anticipate our salvation when Christ is born.

Blessings and thanks,

+Anthony

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor



1521-1597

Feast Day: December 21

Patron Saint of Germany

Peter Canisius was born in the Netherlands and attended the University of Cologne. During his studies, he prayed at a Carthusian monastery and came to know one of the very first Jesuits. After a period of discernment, he joined the Society of Jesus. He was ordained a priest in 1546 and just one year later participated in a session of the Council of Trent in the employ of a German bishop. Soon after this experience at the highest level of Church life, Peter was sent by Saint Ignatius of Loyola to teach at a minor Jesuit college, a test of Peter's obedience. This ministry was short-lived, as Peter's erudition and skills were destined to have a wider scope.

Peter was a working, teaching, preaching scholar who did all things well. He edited the works of Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Pope Saint Leo the Great, and Saint Jerome. He wrote over eight thousand pages of letters to people of every rank of society. His refinements of his popular catechisms never ceased, and he worked for years with other scholars to compose a work on Church history to counter a popular Protestant history book which twisted the truth of Catholicism's role in European history. Peter's life was spent crisscrossing Central Europe in an era fraught with religious tension. The concussive force of the Protestant Reformation stunned the cerebellum of Central Europe for decades. Shock, confusion, and violence spread outward from Germany in wave after confusing wave. Peter and many others slowly helped Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Bohemia to recover their mental health and to remain true to their historic Catholic identity.

Peter was in Vienna, where the people and princes wanted him to stay and be their bishop. But Saint Ignatius, his superior, said no, Peter's skills were needed elsewhere. Then Peter was in Prague, starting Jesuit colleges, preaching to empty churches and, in the end, winning the day. Then Peter was in Bavaria, then Switzerland, and then Poland. His zeal, learning, and holiness were self-evident. He held blameless the majority of Protestants, who were such out of ignorance or apathy. He reserved his rare invective only for the heresiarchs themselves, and for other intellectuals who should have known better. He distinguished between those who were willful apostates and those who were the victims of circumstances. Peter Canisius was a perpetual storm who rained down knowledge, apologetics, books, sermons, and letters over all of Central Europe. He brought calm and moderation to a violent, fevered time. One biographer estimates Peter traveled twenty thousand miles on foot and horseback over a period of thirty years to further his apostolic labors. Peter Canisius was canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church on the same day in 1925.

*Saint Peter, God raised you up at the right time to save the faith in Central Europe. Your even temper, broad knowledge, life of prayer, and personal virtue brought lost sheep back into the fold. From heaven, help all priests, deacons, and teachers to do the same. **AMEN.***

Source of content: mycatholic.life

POSITION VACANT - ST AGATHA'S PARISH, PENNANT HILLS

Youth Minister – Pastoral Support Worker, St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills

10 hours per week

Do you have a passion for working with youth and young people? Are you dynamic and enthusiastic about the Catholic faith? Are you willing to help our youth and young people engage with their faith in a fun, caring and supportive environment?

St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills invites you to join our team as a Youth Minister.

Visit bbcatholic.org.au/jobs for the full advertisement.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a pre-employment Working with Children Check and National Police History Check.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December 2020: 7pm & 11.30pm (Midnight Mass)
Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 9am
25th December 2020: 10.30am (Latin Mass)
(Please note there will be no 7pm Mass Friday 25th December)
New Years Day: 1st January 2021: 7pm

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 7am
New Year Day: 1st January 2021: 7am



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Please write your name and phone number on the sheets provided or use the QR CODE at both entries.
Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 4sqms and sanitize your hands at the door.
Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.

MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME, ISOLATE AND GET TESTED.

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.

Office Hours: Mondays 10.30am to 2.30pm
Fridays 10am to 3pm
Parish Office: 9653 2312
Parish Priest: Fr. Bernard McGrath OSB
After hours: 0416 032 497
Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia
Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia
Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd,
Arcadia 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159
Good Samaritan Sisters: 9653 1231

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

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

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784
Acct: 1446 8001