St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil 9:00am Sunday 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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

15 & 16 JULY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. 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.

FEAST OF ST BENEDICT **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

There is a man of venerable life, Benedict, blessed by grace and by name, who, leaving home and patrimony and desiring to please God alone, sought out the habit of holy living.

HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who made the Abbott Saint Benedict an outstanding master in the school of divine service, grant, we pray, that, putting nothing before love of you, we may hasten with a loving heart in the way of your commands. Though 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: LISTENING and SEEING

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 10:1-23

Jesus said to the disciples, 'The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding.' Jesus' concerns are for all in the world. He has much to offer us but we need to be open and receptive to his words and open to seeing.

- Do I really listen when God's Word is proclaimed at Mass?
- Am I too busy to allow God's Word to take root in my heart, to allow it grow and yield a rich harvest?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to hear your Word, allowing it to grow in the fertile soil of my heart and so see those in need around me.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah *The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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







GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, July 16 Isaiah 55:10-11 Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8 Romans 8:18-23 Matthew 13:1-23

Today we leap from the end of chapter 11 in Matthew to the series of parables constituting most of chapter 13. Today's parable is of the sower (v.3-9) whose seeds fell on the path's edge, in patches of rock, among thorny weeds, and on fertile soil. It is followed by an interruption presented as taking place in private (v.10-23) even though Jesus does not leave the crowds until v.36. This interruption forms a seam in the narrative's fabric, signalling commentary on what has just been told, so the majority of scholarly opinions holds the interpretation (v.18-23) to have been generated by the early Church; Matthew includes it for his own purposes. In it the disciples query why Jesus teaches in parables, for it is clear that while the Jewish members of the early Church were impressed by his teaching and followed him, not all their compatriots responded the same way. The quoted passage from Isaiah evokes language from psalms criticising the pagans' idols that have ears that cannot hear, and eyes that cannot see. In the attached interpretation the greater number of mentioned obstacles (path, rock, and thorns) may give the wrong impression that it is harder for God's word to find fertile soil than this hopeful parable suggests, for any farmer whose field was more path and rock and thorn than well-tilled soil would be a farmer of extraordinarily poor ability, or one who had very poor land. No, it is wondrous that grain grows and produces a crop at all, and excepting catastrophe, this is certain to happen, even though some seed is wasted according to the nature of the field. A risk-averse and thrifty sower more carefully avoids areas doomed to fail, but this means that the fertile soil is not sown to the edge; the spendthrift and risky sower wastes some seed but reaches all the fertile soil so as to produce a greater crop.

The common interpretation of the parable considers each person as a recipient of a seed, which then fails or succeeds according to the individual. It may be true that the word is sometimes wasted on deaf ears, hard hearts and vexed minds, but this is a pessimistic reading that views each person simply as either blessed or damned. It may also perversely give comfort to those who believe themselves to be worthier than others. The parable seems to me to be more about the generosity of God, who liberally sows the word, and who is convinced, according to the first reading (Isa 55:10-11), that the word from the mouth of God will achieve what it was sent out to do. What part then do people themselves play? Is it not possible also to understand the parable's field to be not just the world, but also each person who receives the word? The seeds sown may not take root and transform themselves in all parts of the person's life, but some do take root and grow in each recipient. Those with hearts and minds cultivated to receive it may be more aware of its work and rejoice in it, not as the fruit of their own labour but for the simple joy and wonder of it. Is it not also possible that if each person tends to the crop the word produces within them, then they may more consciously cultivate those parts revealed to be hard or shallow or distracted? Enjoying the crop while also aware of the shortcomings, the wiser farmer then attends to softening edges, picking out rocks, and uprooting thorns so as to make the heart as receptive and fertile as possible.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

July

Monday 17 Readings: Ex 1:8-14,22. Mt 10:34-11:1 R: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Tuesday 18 Readings: Ex 2:1-15. Mt 11:20-24.

R: Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Wednesday 19 Readings: Ex 3:1-6,9-12. Mt 11:25-27.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Thursday 20 Readings: Ex 3:13-20. Mt 11:28-30

R: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

St Apollinaris, bishop and martyr

Friday 21 Readings: Ex 11:10, 12-14. Mt 12:1-8.

R: I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name

of the Lord.

St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor

Saturday 22 Readings: Song 3:1-4 or 2 Cor 5:14-17. .Jn 20:1-2, 11-18.

R: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God

Feast of St Mary Magdalene



Saint Mary Magdalene, you lived a sinful life, but when you encountered Jesus, you repented and followed Him.

You were faithful to Him throughout His ministry and were a witness to His death and Resurrection. Please pray for me, that I may always have the courage to repent of my sins and stand with you at the foot of the Cross so that I may also be a witness to the transforming effects of the Resurrection. Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for me. Jesus. I trust in You.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2023

FOR A EUCHARISTIC LIFE

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To reverence the old.

PARISH FUNDS

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Acct: 100002141 Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:

CBA—Catholic Development Fund

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing **BROTHER TERRY** a very happy birthday!



21st July

God bless you on your birthday!







ST.VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

We are hoping to collect any non-perishable food and toiletries you may be able to donate.

We also want to express our gratitude for the generous donations we have received through the Poor Boxes in the church. These donations and those from our appeals are hugely appreciated as we are helping so many more families suffering hardship in these difficult times.

We take this opportunity to welcome Marie Endicott as a new member of Arcadia Conference. We are delighted to have her on board.

Rita, Lila, Marie & Karen - Vinnies Arcadia.

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:

TONY TAKCHI







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 all the Takchi family and friends.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

is now open, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in August 2023.

The forms are available in the sacristy, otherwise please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list. The form is also available on the parish website.

In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is:

Confirmation, Reconciliation, then Eucharist. Children are usually prepared for these sacraments in Years 3 and 4.



The Peter's Pence Collection is traditionally taken up throughout Catholic parishes around the world either on 29 June, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, or on the Sunday closest to this Solemnity. This collection helps provide the Holy Father with funds for emergency assistance to those in need. The proceeds enable Pope Francis to assist the most disadvantaged in emergency situations including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Thank you for your generosity.

In Our Parish

(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

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

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum) and Jenny Taylor.



We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Tony Takchi, Rosaria Cali, Carmen Camilleri and Karl Maurer, and Lyla Abood (first anniversary). May they rest in Peace.

TRI-DIOCESAN SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENING 2023

RESPECT
CONFRONTING VIOLENCE & ABUSE
TRI-DIOCESAN SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENING 2023



WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY, 2023

This year's Tri-Diocesan social justice event is on the topic of the current Australian Catholic Bishop's statement on domestic violence: 'Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse.'

This is an annual event organised by the Diocese of Broken Bay, the Diocese of Parramatta and the Archdiocese of Sydney, with Sydney hosting the event this year as follows:

Date: Wednesday 26 July 2023

• Time: 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Venue: Catholic Institute of Sydney, Strathfield Presenters on the evening include the organisers of a photographic exhibition recently held on the Central Coast to draw attention to this issue, which includes Commander Sharon Marshall from the NSW Police.

For other speakers and further details, please see flyer below.

This is a free event, and includes dinner. All most welcome to be part of this important conversation. Registration is essential at:

https://tinyurl.com/2wwy3ajm



CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every **Friday nights**: after 7pm Mass

Wednesday mornings: after 9.30am Mass.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Awakening personal enthusiasm on the part of all the baptized and reviving the awareness of their call to carry out a proper mission in the community demands attentiveness to the voice of the Spirit, who is unfailingly present and fruitful (cf. CIC can. 774 §1; CCEO can. 617). Today, too, the Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Christian faith. It is the task of pastors to support them in this process and to enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the "penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors" (Evangelii Gaudium, 102). Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 10 May 2021 Instituting the Ministry of Catechist

Term 3 starts this week on Monday 17th July. I hope all have had an enjoyable holiday rest!

The Safeguarding Children training for all Catechists is being held on Thursday 3rd August 9:30am - 12:30pm at the parish.

If you would like to learn more about being a Catechist or a helper, please talk to myself, or one of our parish Catechists or any of our priests. Training, a Teacher's Manual and workbooks are provided free.

God bless.

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator





VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

Thank you to everyone who helps out our parish making it into the beautiful community we have.

For the nomination this week we would like to thank:

MARGARET BENSLEY!

Thank you for helping out at Saturday night Masses.

Is there someone you would like to nominate? Please mention it to Fr Shansana or Paula.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.



Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, priest, doctor



1559–1619
Patron Saint of Brindisi, Italy
Canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1881
Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John XXIII in 1959

It was from the Child in her womb that Mary received all her glory. He clothed her with the sun, rolled the moon beneath her feet, and set upon her head a crown of twelve stars. The Virgin Mother of God had this glory not from herself, but from God, the Creator of Heaven, Who had made the sun, the moon, and the stars, She had her glory from Christ, her Son, through Whom all things, even Mary herself, have been made. Christ was not only a son to Mary, but

also a father who had created her, and adorned her with every virtue and blessing. He was her Lord, her true and supreme God. The noble soul of Mary, therefore, found infinite motives and objects of love in Christ. ~Sermon of Saint Lawrence

Julius Caesar Russo was born in Brindisi, in the Kingdom of Naples, modern-day Italy, to a family of merchants. As a child, he studied under the Conventual Franciscans in Brindisi, impressing the friars with his oratory skills, which were often showcased during special events, such as Christmas. His father passed away when Julius was around seven years old. Later, he relocated to Venice, where he continued his education under the Capuchin Franciscans. It remains unclear whether he moved with his mother or if she had also died after entrusting his care to an uncle who was a priest.

In Venice, the Capuchins, a new branch of the Franciscans, aimed to adhere more strictly to the original Rule of Saint Francis, particularly in regard to poverty and simplicity. Under both the Conventuals and Capuchins, Julius demonstrated exceptional learning. In 1575, at the age of sixteen, he joined the Capuchins in Venice, adopting the name Brother Lawrence. He soon became recognized as an exceptional linguist, mastering Biblical languages such as Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Syriac, along with fluency in Italian, German, Spanish, French, and Czech. One legend states that he memorized the entire Bible in its original languages. After seven years with the Capuchins, Brother Lawrence was ordained a priest in 1582.

After his ordination, Father Lawrence's linguistic gifts were put to extensive use. He had not only mastered the Bible in its original languages but was also well-versed in ancient Jewish Rabbinic literature and prominent Catholic theology, such as the *Summa Theologica* of Saint Thomas Aquinas and the works of the Fathers of the Church. His deep knowledge, coupled with his prayerful life and manifest virtues, turned him into an eloquent and persuasive preacher, earning the respect of many, including several Jewish rabbis.

Father Lawrence was entrusted with a multitude of responsibilities after his ordination. He served as the superior of the Capuchins in the province of Tuscany, a general counselor to the Capuchins in Rome, and later as the Minister General of the entire order. His profound knowledge of Hebrew and Rabbinic literature led the Pope to appoint him to minister to the Jews of Rome. In 1601, at the behest of the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II, he became a chaplain to the army defending the empire against the Ottoman Turks in Hungary. Not only did Father Lawrence inspire the troops, but he also led them into the Battle of Székesfehérvár, carrying a crucifix while on horseback. His leadership resulted in a victory for the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1605, the Pope sent Father Lawrence to Germany to assist in countering the Protestant Reformation. He collaborated with princes and kings to establish the Catholic League, aimed at defending the rights of Catholics and later resisting the Turkish invasion. A devout Franciscan, his ultimate goal was always to achieve peace, a task at which he excelled. He also worked in Vienna, Prague, and Graz, Austria. During these years, he clearly articulated the Church's stance on papal primacy and its origin in Saint Peter, the role of bishops, the Catholic view on justification, and the necessity of good works for salvation. His defense of the Church was always rooted in his profound understanding of Sacred Scripture and the deposit of faith, tracing its development from the early Church Fathers up to his own time.

Father Lawrence's influence wasn't limited to academic circles. His deep prayer life, prolonged and reverent celebration of the Mass, and his ability to engage with the laity in a convincing and transformative manner, endeared him to countless people. His prayer was one of continuous contemplation, and miracles accompanied his ministry. Despite his numerous duties, his personal prayer life was the catalyst for his transformation into a great saint. In addition to his devout celebration of the Mass, during which he often fell into ecstasy, he had a profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, often saying of her, "May the Virgin Mary bless us with her pious offspring."

Besides his administrative, consultative, military, and preaching roles, Father Lawrence was a prolific writer. Most notably, he left behind significant works on Mariology, sermons, commentaries on Sacred Scripture, defenses against heresies, and commentaries on Catholic theology, particularly on the teachings of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

(continued from previous...)

Father Lawrence died in Portugal on his sixtieth birthday. His intellect and influence were so profound that during his canonization process, it was stated, "He can truly be numbered among the holy doctors of the Church." Indeed, in 1959, Pope John XXIII recognized him as one of the Doctors of the Church, making him one of eight Franciscan saints to receive this honor.

Saint Lawrence is inspirational not only because of his intelligence, but also because of his holiness. His brilliance, intertwined with his humble life of prayer, transformed him into a remarkable preacher, administrator, peacemaker, theologian, and defender of the faith. As we venerate this great Franciscan saint, reflect on the fact that Saint Lawrence was precisely what the Church needed during his era. He addressed wars, theological errors, mass departures from the Church, and confusion among the laity. Saint Lawrence was the right man for the task.

Just as God positioned Saint Lawrence in a unique historical period that needed him the most, God has also placed you in this moment in history. While you may not be called to fulfill the same duties as Saint Lawrence, you are called by God to use your unique gifts for His glory and the salvation of souls. Do not hesitate to respond generously to God's will so that He can use you in ways beyond your imagination.

Saint Lawrence, you were called by God at a young age, and you responded generously. God molded you, raising your natural gifts to the level of grace and employing them for the good of the Church. Please pray for me, that I may never hesitate in my service to Christ and His Church so that God can use me in magnificent ways. Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents can be magical entities that sprinkle fairy dust into our lives, filling our childhood with treasured tales, cookies, and unconditional love. They embody wisdom and patience, always ready to lend an empathetic ear. Through their abundant stories and experienced perspectives, they weave a tapestry of family history, connecting the present to the past, and the future to its roots.

Their importance in our lives is often overlooked, making it crucial that we remind them how much we value their love and care. Simple gestures such as regular phone calls, handmade gifts, or spending a quiet afternoon reminiscing over photo albums can bring immeasurable joy. No gesture is too small; it's the thought that counts. Writing letters expressing love and gratitude, or creating a family tree with them, is a great way to make them feel cherished and appreciated.

The loss of a grandparent is a profound experience that creates an indelible void. We remember those who have passed away by preserving their stories, recollecting their wise words, and embracing their legacy. Their teachings, their laughter, and even their peculiarities become the fuel that keeps their memories alive within us. Creating keepsakes, planting a tree in their memory, or even preparing their favourite recipe can become a heartwarming tradition of remembrance.

Being a grandparent, on the other hand, is a role of a lifetime. It's a chance to relive parenthood, but with the luxury of time and the wisdom of experience. It is like watching a movie for the second time, where one can appreciate the nuances missed during the first view. This unique perspective allows us grandparents to impart life's crucial lessons while nurturing our grandchildren with tender love and care. Being a grandparent is not just about spoiling the grandkids (I do tell my kids that it's one of my most important jobs and I will do it to the best of my ability). It is about leaving an indelible impact on their lives.

So, as we approach *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly,* we remember and affirm that grandparents are not just the sweet, older folks in our lives. They are keepers of tradition, pillars of wisdom, and above all, the ever-giving source of pure love. As we navigate life's journey, let's remember to celebrate their roles, cherish their presence, and preserve their memory in the tapestry of our family history.

Source: majellan.media

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY - PLEASE COLLECT

Your name is marked on your copy

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

22/7/2023 to 23/7/2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	Jerry L
Reader1	Maria G	Kath M	Michael E
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Leon J
Prayers	Kathryn S	Lorraine D	Matt W
TV		Mary A	Sebastian W
Music		Mark Q	Mark Q
Music		Marisa Q	Martina J
Music		Helen F	Adam F
Music		Keith W	
Morning Tea		Teresa G	
FLOWERS	Mona M		

Thank You!

Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!

If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish.

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 OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

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

Like us on Facebook

arish Rost

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.