

# St Benedict's Parish

## Arcadia



*"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"*  
(John 14:6)

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### YEAR A

#### MAY 2 & 3 2026

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of life eternal.  
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.

#### SELF REFLECTION: TRUST JESUS

##### Sunday's Gospel, John 14:1-12

Jesus tells us not to be afraid but to trust in Him. He is the way, the truth, and the life, leading us to the Father.

##### I Reflect...

- Do I truly trust Jesus when I feel anxious or uncertain?
- Do I turn to Him as the way in my daily decisions?
- How well do I seek to know Jesus more deeply?
- Do my actions reflect my faith in Him?
- Am I bringing peace to others as He brings peace to me?

## Trust & Believe

#### Prayer

Lord Jesus, calm my troubled heart and strengthen my trust in You. Help me to follow You as the way, believe in You as the truth, and live in You as the life. Draw me closer to the Father each day. Amen.

#### PARISH MASS TIMES

##### 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

##### Saturdays

9:00am to 10:00am  
Adoration & Confession

#### MONASTERY CHAPEL MASS TIMES

Sundays 7:00am  
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

*Baptisms  
Reconciliation  
For the Sick  
Marriages  
Funerals*

Parish Priest:  
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233  
Parish Office 9653 2312



**First Reading Acts 6:1-7 (JB)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

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

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

**Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9 (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL John 14:1-12 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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



## READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

**Acts Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Peter 2:4-9 / John 14:1-12**

In the **Gospel**, Jesus gently reassures His disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." He invites them to trust in Him, revealing that He is the way, the truth, and the life—the path that leads us to the Father.

In **Acts**, the early Church faces challenges, yet responds with faith, wisdom, and service, ensuring that no one in the community is overlooked.

In 1 **Peter**, we are reminded that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, built on Christ, the living stone, and called to proclaim His goodness.

Together, these readings show that faith in Jesus is not just about belief—it is about trust that leads to action. When we place our confidence in Him, we become people who serve, who build up the community, and who reflect His light to others.

### Key Thought

Trusting in Jesus transforms our hearts and sends us out to serve with love and purpose.

### Take-Home Challenge

This week, notice one moment each day where you are tempted to worry, rush, or rely only on yourself. In that moment, pause and consciously place it in Jesus' hands, saying: "Jesus, I trust in You." Then, look for one practical way each day to serve or encourage someone around you—at home, work, school, or in your parish—so that your faith becomes visible in action.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the way, the truth, and the life. Calm my fears and strengthen my trust in You. Help me to serve others with a generous heart and to live as a witness of Your love each day. Amen.

Source: chatgpt

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

### MAY

- Monday 4 Readings: Acts 14:5-18 + Jn 14:21-26.  
**R:** Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.
- Tuesday 5 Readings: Acts 14:19-28 + Jn 14:27-31a .  
**R:** Your friends tell the glory of your kingship, Lord.
- Wednesday 6 Readings: Acts 15:1-6 + Jn 15:1-8.  
**R:** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
- Thursday 7 Readings: Acts 15:7-21 + Jn 15:9-11.  
**R:** Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.
- Friday 8 Readings: Acts 15:22-31 + Jn 15:12-17.  
**R:** I will praise you among, the nations, O Lord.  
*(Anniversary of election of Pope Leo XIV, 2025)*
- Saturday 9 Readings: Acts 16:1-10 + Jn 15:18-21.  
**R:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Source: Ordo 2026



### MAY THE MONTH OF MARY

*Mary, our loving Mother,  
in this month of May we turn to  
you with trust and love.  
Help us to say "yes" to God  
each day as you did,  
and to follow your Son with  
faith and courage.  
Pray for us, guide us, and keep  
us close to Jesus.  
Amen.*



### POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2026

#### That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## MAY - MONTH OF MARY



### ROSARY AFTER WEEKDAY MASS

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady and the Holy Rosary.

During this special month, the Rosary will be prayed after the weekday Masses from Monday to Thursday.

All parishioners are warmly invited to stay and join in this beautiful prayer as we ask for Mary's intercession and grow closer to Jesus through her Son.



### HOME ROSARY EVENINGS

We will also be holding the Rosary in different homes in the evenings throughout May, inviting Our Lady to visit and bring her motherly presence into our homes and families.

If you would like to join or would like to host and book a date, please contact the Parish Office or Paula on 0423 078 282. Even if you do not wish to host you are welcome to visit and pray with us!

## PIETY SHOP NEWS

### VISIT THE PIETY SHOP FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

With **Mother's Day** next weekend, the Piety Shop now has a lovely selection of Mother's Day items available—thoughtful gifts to show appreciation and love for all mothers and grandmothers.

We also have a new range of religious and practical items in store, including seat belt covers, pill boxes for daily tablets, thermal cups, brain game books, and much more.

We warmly invite you to visit the Piety Shop and have a look at what's new. We look forward to seeing you there!

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION INTRODUCTION AND RENEWAL DAY

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at the Monastery, 17th May.

Arrival from 10am to register for a 10:30am start, presentations, introduction to meditation, Middle of the Day Prayer with the monks, Mass at 2pm, conclusion around 3pm.

Book display and morning tea provided, please BYO picnic lunch.

Enquiries: Fr Michael -0455 329 697  
or Ann Lomas-0437 340 250

### HELP NEEDED

We need young men to help put up the banners for the fete please.  
Can you please let Tania know on 0401 597 278.

### ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8–12 years  
Our Kids Youth Group is back on Fridays DURING SCHOOL TERM  
4.00pm to 5.30pm

We need helper volunteers. Please let the parish office know if you are free to help.



### HEALING MASS

Healing Mass is held on the first Thursday of each month at 9.30am

**NEXT HEALING MASS:  
THURSDAY 7TH OF MAY 2026**

### WORKING BEE – PARISH GROUNDS



A Working Bee will be held on **Saturday 16th May 10.30am to 1.00pm.**

We invite all parishioners who are able to come along and help care for our parish grounds.

Please bring your gloves, hats, and any gardening tools you may have.

Your support is greatly appreciated as we work together in maintaining and beautifying our parish home.

## 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:**

*Miriam Brown, Pauline Honor, Kath Moran, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.*

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

*Paul Cascun, Nanna Trani, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappallardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella ~ May they rest in Peace.*



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

**OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM** will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in October 2026.

**Please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list for the next program as we are taking names now.**

*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 Year 3 and 4.*

## DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION MONTH — MAY

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is observed each May to raise awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence, and to highlight the support available to those affected.

The month also includes Domestic Violence Remembrance Day, held on the first Wednesday in May, providing an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives and to stand in solidarity with victim survivors.

The key aims of the month are to:

- Raise community awareness of domestic and family violence and its impacts
- Promote a clear message of no tolerance of domestic and family violence
- Ensure those experiencing violence know how to access help and support

Support is available through services such as **1800RESPECT**, which provides confidential information, counselling, and support for people impacted by domestic, family, and sexual violence



Additional information and support pathways are available through the **NSW Government Domestic and Family Violence Support** pages, including guidance on recognising abuse and accessing local services.



## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Term 2 has commenced this week. We pray that all our catechists have a smooth and blessed transition back into the classroom as they continue the important work of sharing our Catholic faith with the children.

For parishioners who may be considering becoming a catechist, a new training course will commence on 30 April. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your faith and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people.

**We urgently need a catechist at Hillside Public school on Friday mornings from 8.45am - 9.45am to teach two year 1 students.**

God bless,  
Martina Jutrisa  
[srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator  
0413 403 767



## CARITAS AUSTRALIA LEBANON EMERGENCY APPEAL

Lebanon is facing one of its most severe humanitarian crises in years, as a sudden surge in violence and mass evacuation orders force families to flee with nothing.

Within 24 hours, Caritas Lebanon reported 667,831 newly displaced people seeking safety.

Despite the volatile environment, Caritas Lebanon teams are operating across seven governorates, delivering food, essential items, healthcare, psychosocial support, water and hygiene assistance, and protection services. Let us stand in solidarity with our partners in Lebanon. Learn more or make a donation today at [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)

### Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal

Over 780,000 people are displaced due to conflict. Your support can help provide essential support.

**DONATE NOW**  
[caritas.org.au/Lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/Lebanon)



## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**  
Everyone welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.



## CCC PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meeting held every **Wednesday morning:**  
after 9.30am Mass.  
*Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!*

For more details call  
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

## CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!

# SAINTS OF THE WEEK

## Saints Philip and James, Apostles

**Saint Philip: c. 4 - 80**

Patron Saint of hatmakers and pastry chefs

**Saint James: First Century BC - c. 62**

Patron Saint of pharmacists and the dying

**Feast Day: May 3**



Since the sixth century, the Apostles Philip and James' relics have rested in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Rome. The two Apostles are honoured with one feast.

**Philip** was one of the Twelve, most likely a follower of John the Baptist who knew that John pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. He might have been Simon Peter and Andrew's brother, making him a fisherman by trade. The day after Jesus invited the brothers to follow Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Follow me" ([John 1:43](#)). Philip obeyed and told his friend Nathanael that they had found the Messiah. Nathanael was reluctant, saying, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see" ([John 1:46](#)). When Nathanael came and saw, he professed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah and followed our Lord from that time forward, witnessing Jesus' first miracle at Cana.

In John's Gospel, Philip tells Jesus that two hundred days' wages would not buy enough to feed the crowd of 5,000 ([John 6:6](#)). Philip also comes up in connection with Greek-speaking Gentiles who want to see Jesus (see [John 12:21](#)), indicating that he could speak Greek and was known to the Greek community. At the Last Supper, as Jesus spoke about the Father, Philip said, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us", to which Jesus gently responded, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" ([John 14:8-14](#)).

Traditions say that after Pentecost, Philip preached in Greece, Phrygia, and Syria, being crucified upside-down or beheaded at an old age in Hierapolis, Phrygia, modern-day southwest Turkey.

**James** was also one of the Twelve, sharing a name with James, the son of Zebedee. Today's saint is James the Less or James, the son of Alphaeus. His mother was possibly Mary of Clopas, the Blessed Virgin's sister, making James a first cousin to Jesus. In Scripture, he is referred to as Jesus' "brother" because it was common at that time to refer to cousins and other relatives as brothers and sisters. In Mark's Gospel, Levi (better known as Matthew) is also referred to as the son of Alphaeus ([Mark 2:14](#)) which could make James and Matthew brothers.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul relates that the Lord appeared to James after His Resurrection ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#)). After Pentecost, James became the first bishop of the Church in Jerusalem. The Acts of the Apostles relates that James oversaw the First Council of Jerusalem and declared the final judgment on behalf of Peter (see Acts 15). Eusebius, a fourth-century bishop, wrote about James' martyrdom, "...he was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple, and was beaten to death with a club." Traditionally, James the Less is believed to have been the author of the New Testament letter of James that gives encouragement in trials and persecutions, exhorts, warns, and ends by speaking of the power of prayer.

***Saints Philip and James, you were blessed to be Jesus' companions, listening to Him preach, witnessing His miracles, and receiving from Him a commission to continue His work. Please pray that I will come to know our Lord and Savior through prayer and the Holy Scriptures, so that I will be prepared for the mission that God has for me. Saints Philip and James, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.***

# St Benedict's Country Fete

## Sunday 31 May 2026

**2 FAGANS ROAD ARCADIA PH: 9653 2312**

Fruit & Veggie Stall • Chocolate Wheel • Raffle  
Dev Tea • BBQ • Gifts • Coffee • Cakes • Lolly Stall  
Hot Dogs • Pop Corn • Gelato • Face Painting  
Flowers • Crafts • Plants • Rides & lots more...

**10am to 3pm**

### PARISH FETE – LET'S BEGIN THE EXCITEMENT! COUNTDOWN: 5 WEEKENDS TO GO!

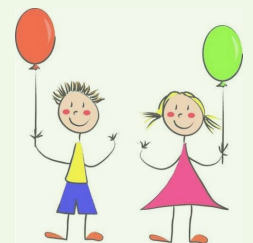
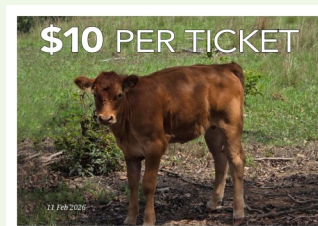
The excitement is building for our upcoming Parish Fete! Only **5 weekends to go**, so now is the time to get involved, spread the word, and help make this year's fete a wonderful success for our parish community.

Please collect your **raffle tickets from the church entrances**. Don't forget that **cow tickets are available separately** as well.

We kindly ask everyone to **share the new date with family and friends** and invite them to join us on this special parish day.

We are still in need of:

- Brand new items for the **Chocolate Wheel**
- Lollies for the **lolly stand**
- More **craft items**
- **Cakes baked on the day of the fete** for our stalls



Your generosity in donating items is greatly appreciated!

We also need **volunteers** to help on the day. Even a little time makes a big difference—please consider helping to **relieve stall holders so they can have a short break** during the day.

Thank you for your support, generosity, and parish spirit. Let's make this fete a joyful and successful celebration for everyone!

**For any information please contact Tania on 0401 597 278**

# Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS  
NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER  
9/5/26 TO 10/5/26 (MOTHER'S DAY)  
6th SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
<b>Acolyte</b>		Paul E	George A
<b>Reader1</b>	Margaret B	Mary C	Leeann A
<b>Reader2</b>	John V	Matt W	Sandra M
<b>Prayers</b>	Mary C	Judy H	Anthony A
<b>TV</b>		Jules O	Mawhinney
<b>EMHC</b>		Sophie R	Caterina V
<b>EMHC</b>		Catherine C	Sandra M
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Keith W	Adam F
<b>Music</b>		Marisa Q	Sandra M
<b>Music</b>			
<b>Morning Tea</b>		<b>Mary A</b>	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>Angela S</b>		

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and their enduring connection to country, waters, and culture. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.*

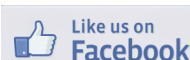
*Above all we give thanks to **God our Father**, who blesses this land, its people, and all creation. May we live in harmony, justice, and peace, guided by His love.*

## SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

*St Benedict's Parish is committed to the safety of all, especially children and vulnerable people. Concerns? Contact Fr Shansana 0437 884 233, or the Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.*

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays & Fridays:** 9.00am to 2.00pm  
**Parish Office:** 02 9653 2312  
**Address:** 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159  
**Email:** [arcadia.parity@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parity@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  
**Facebook:** [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)



## MONASTERY CHAPEL

### Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

**5.45am** Office of Readings  
**6.30am** Morning prayer - Lauds  
**12.45pm** Midday prayer  
**6.00pm** Evening prayer - Vespers  
**8.00pm** Night prayer - Compline

## Ignite Conference 2026 | Ascend proudly hosted by the Diocese of Broken Bay Light of Christ Centre, Waitara Thursday 9 July – Sunday 12 July 2026

Thursday afternoon to Sunday lunchtime  
Broken Bay Cathedral Precinct  
27 Yardley Ave, Waitara NSW 2077

Experience God in the most extraordinary way through formation, renewal of faith, amazing people and powerful worship. Ignite Conference 2026 is coming to Broken Bay.



### Registrations are now open

To support our young people encountering Christ and community through this event, the Diocese of Broken Bay will offer subsidies for individual young participants to attend Ignite Conference with a group from their parish. If you would like to express interest in obtaining a Broken Bay subsidy, complete the Microsoft Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/3kuxSFcZgQ> or use the QR code attached by **Monday 11 May 2026 at 5pm**

## DID YOU KNOW...

In Acts 6:1–7, the first deacons were chosen to help serve the practical needs of the Church so that the Apostles could focus on prayer and preaching—showing that service and leadership have always gone hand in hand in the life of the Church.

**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.