

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
(Wednesday 9am Stations of the Cross)
Fridays 6.30pm Stations of the Cross
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am
Adoration & Confession
(Reconciliation)

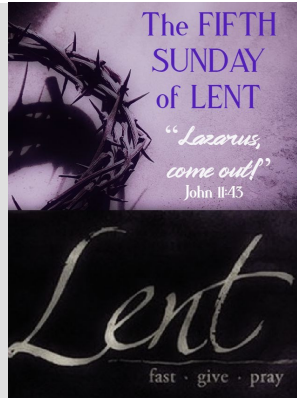
MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 25 & 26 MARCH 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

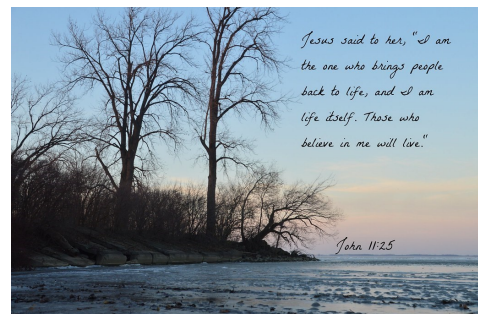
By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

REFLECTION: NEW LIFE

Sunday's Gospel, John 11:1-45

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, bringing him back to life. This gives him new life with Jesus. New life in Jesus is the closeness to him, leaning on him, sharing food and friendships. It is not just the death of Jesus but the life of Jesus that brings light into our world.

- **Am I stumbling in darkness or am I walking in the light?**
- **How has God chosen to use me to bring someone to Himself?**
- **Do I have the confidence to pursue a hard task that others strongly opposed?**
- **In what way has God "raised me from the dead"?**
- **For what "miracle" do I want to thank God today?**



Dear Lord,

Help me to calm down and feel Your presence in me, as I struggle when I am walking in the darkness. Help me see Your light. Help me to bring others to a new life with You. Thank you for all the little miracles you have done for me. Amen.

First Reading**Ezekiel 37:12-14 (Year A) (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

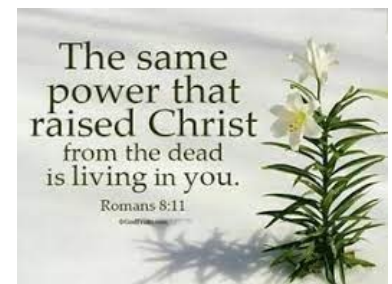
The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.****Second Reading****Romans 8:8-11 (Year A) (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

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

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
 I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
 whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL**John 11:1-45 (Year A) (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

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When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



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

Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2023

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 27 Readings: Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62. Jn 8:1-11.
R: Though I walk in the valley of darkness I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Tuesday 28 Readings: Num 21:4-9. Jn 8:21-30.
R: O Lord hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you.

Wednesday 29 Readings: Dan 3:14-20, 24-25, 28.
R: Glory and praise for ever!

Thursday 30 Readings: Gen 17:3-9. Jn 8:51-59.
R: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Friday 31 Readings: Jer 20:10-13.
R: In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.

April

Saturday 1 Readings: Ezek 37:21-28. Jn 11:45-56.
R: The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, remind me of the grace and simplicity.
May this season be grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.

www.ShareCatholic.com

Source: Ordo 2023

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2023

FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



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



FATHER MICHAEL KELLY

a very happy birthday!

April 1st

God bless you on your birthday
and keep you healthy always!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS TIMES

Palm Sunday 2nd April

Monastery 7am
Parish 9am and 10.30am
Latin 4.30pm



Holy Thursday - The Lord's Supper 6th April

Parish 7.30pm



Stations of the Cross - Good Friday 7th April

Parish 10.30am

Passion of the Lord - Good Friday 7th April

Parish 3pm



Easter Vigil Saturday 8th April

Parish 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 9th April

Monastery - 7am
Parish 9am
Latin 10.30am



DO YOU NEED HELP TO KEEP LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AT HOME?

9488 2488
www.catholiccaredbb.org.au

CATHOLICCARE COUNSELLING

Counselling supports with CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay are now available.

Counselling provides an opportunity to explore tricky life experiences or concerns in a safe and reflective environment. When feelings become overwhelming or confusing, counselling can be really helpful. We work with you, assisting you to face challenges and stressors, coming up with suggestions to tackle or resolve these challenges. We listen, talk through experiences and help you think about ways forward. We are open to all and offer face-to-face sessions at our Artarmon, Brookvale, Tuggerah and Waitara based Family Centres as well as via telehealth. **Sessions are \$60 per hour and a \$20 rate is available for concession card holders.** We are also an accredited provider of NDIS supports. No wait lists.

Book now at 1800 324 924 or visit

www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/therapy-services/

COUNSELLING AVAILABLE

\$60 PER HOUR
(\$20 CONCESSION RATE)

CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay

1800 324 924
www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/therapy-services

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 **Tony Takchi, Brother Mario & Terry and Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum).**

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died,
especially **Simon Basha and Chris Singleton....may they Rest in Peace.**



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week's nomination we would like thank:
The FATIMA COMMITTEE for all their help in our parish and supplying so many beautiful items for our parish!

Some of the committee consist of:

Angela Egiziano
Guido & Angela Scotti
Teresa Monardo
Teresa Gambino
Anna-Maria Gambino
Mario & Josephine Letteri
Alfie & Maria Sfirse
Paul & Mary Camilleri (*supplying all the statues and running the prayer groups*)



- Candle stand
- Church pews (helped moving setting them up)
- Carpets in the hall
- Curtains
- Sheets to cover statues
- Flowers
- Statue of Our Lady
- Catering when needed and ***much more!***

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Fatima Committee for all you do for us. God bless you all! We also would like to acknowledge the past committee members who have passed away that have done so much as well. May they rest in Peace.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

For those already enrolled and have already received their Sacrament of Confirmation, First Reconciliation Classes begin:

Mondays 6th March 2023 (group 1)
until 27th March 2023 – 4.15pm to 5.15pm
Wednesdays 8th March 2023 (group 2)
until 29th March 2023 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

1st Reconciliation on – Saturday 1st April - 10am

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 August 2023. Please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list.

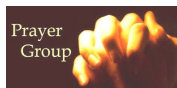
In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is:



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

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every
Friday nights: after 7pm Mass
Wednesday mornings: after 9.30am Mass.
Everyone welcome. ***Come and meet new people.***
For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.



CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training continues (to register email registrations@bbcatholic.org.au) –

- For new Catechists or those on Provisional Authorisation cards this week 27th/28th March Monday 10am – 12:30pm and Tuesday 6:30pm – 8:30pm via Zoom – on 'Introduction to the Bible'. Next week the final topic will be 'Lesson Planning Using Digital Resources'.
- For all Catechists there will be a Classroom Management training unit being held during the April school holidays on Monday 17 April 6.30 - 8.30pm via Zoom and on Wednesday 19 April 10am - 12.30pm at Pennant Hills.
- Also for all Catechists Level 1 Training is available starting in May. The first session will be 'Prayer in the Classroom'.

If you are interested in becoming a Catechist or helper and joining this ministry of bringing God's love and Word to children in our local schools, talk to myself, one of our 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 Coordinator



CHURCH BULLETIN FUNNIES

A man was surprised to read the announcement of his own death in the obituary column of the local newspaper. Ringing up his close friend, he enquired, "Did you see the announcement of my death in the paper this morning?" "Yes," was the frightened answer in a shivering voice. "But where are you speaking from? Heaven or Hell?"



QUILTING GROUP



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

Everyone welcome!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are all invited to Stations of the Cross for prayer, reflection and meditation on Christ's Passion inside the Parish Church every:

Wednesday mornings 9am
Friday nights 6.30pm

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.
Everyone welcome.
For more details call Angela Egiziano.
Ph: 9653 2312.



DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc.

Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

(That's Sr Mary in the yellow helmet and one of the crew. She boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse etc she is onto it.)

Cheers,
Cathy Holling
Ph: 0403 062 255



FATHER MICHAEL KELLY'S BENEDICTUS FUNDRAISER



BenedictUs is a charity set up by Fr Michael while based in Rome as Abbot General.

Its aim is to support projects of our monasteries in India, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Congo.

The present project is to extend a school run by the Benedictine monastery at Butembo, Congo (DRC). The school includes technical skills so students will have a better chance of finding work. Butembo is in the troubled North Kivu province where locals are subjected to guerrilla warfare and have also suffered bouts of Ebola virus.

The offer by Grove Estate of discounted wine is an opportunity to stock up for Easter and help these kids at the same time.

Your help would be appreciated!



1. For each case purchased, BenedictUs Australia receives \$100
2. Go to the link below or scan the QR code
3. Purchase 1 case (12 bottles) of the mixed case below
4. Enter discount code: BENEDICTUS at checkout to receive \$66 discount

Fundraiser runs until Easter Day 2023



www.groveestate.com.au/shop/fundraise/

Each case contains

3 x Hilltops Shiraz 2020

Ranked No.1 Shiraz in Australia for 2021 in The Real Review.

3 x Think Outside the Circle Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Gold Medal Winner 2017 NSW Wine Awards and 2017 NSW Small Winemakers Show.

3 x Al Dente Rosé 2022

Gold Medal Winner 2022 NSW Wine Awards.

3 x Wherehaveyou Bin Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2022

Tropical, vibrant and light bodied.

USUAL PRICE: \$306 plus shipping
WITH "BENEDICTUS" CODE: \$240 plus shipping



Saint John of Egypt

C. 305 - 394

Feast Day: March 27



One of the most famous early desert hermits, a noted prophet of his era. He was born in Lycopolis, modern Assiut, Egypt, and became a hermit at the age of twenty. He was walled up in a hermitage near Assiut, with a single window opening onto the public. There he preached to vast crowds each weekend. He predicted two military victories for Emperor Theodosius I, and they were proven accurate in 388 and 392. The cell in which John spent his life was discovered in 1925.

Saint John of Egypt, also known as **John the Hermit**, **John the Anchorite**, or **John of Lycopolis**, was one of the hermits of the Nitrian Desert. He began as a carpenter but at the age of twenty-five began to live a life of solitude.

Early life

John of Egypt was born in Lycopolis.^[2] His parents were poor and he trained as a carpenter. At the age of 25, he became a monk under the guidance of an elderly hermit.^[2]

He spent a decade with the hermit, taking direction from him and learning from him. John Cassian recounts a tale that the hermit directed John to water a dry stick every day for a year. After this test of obedience his superior threw the stick away.^[3] When the hermit died, John spent the next five years travelling and visiting monasteries.

Life as a hermit

According to hagiographer Alban Butler, John was noted for performing seemingly absurd acts such as rolling rocks from place to place and cultivating dead trees. Finally, he withdrew to the top of a cliff near Lycopolis, Egypt, where he could avoid all human contact. There he carved three small cells out of rock; one for sleeping, one for work and the last for praying. Then he walled them up with himself inside, leaving only a small window.^[1] He communicated through the window to people who brought him food and water twice a week. Crowds would gather on those two days to hear him preach.

John never ate until sunset and lived on a diet of dried fruit and vegetables for fifty years.^[4] He refused bread and never ate anything cooked.^[4] He lived this way well into his nineties.^[1]

He was believed to possess the spiritual gift of prophecy and often predicting the future and knowing the details of persons he had never met. He predicted future victories to the Emperor Theodosius the Great.

He avoided seeing women, in particular, to avoid temptation, but he avoided all people for the last fifty years of his life. Saint Augustine wrote that John was tempted by devils and performed miraculous cures. He cured a woman, according to Augustine, of blindness and then appeared to her in a vision to avoid seeing her in person.

According to Butler, John prayed incessantly, and he spent the last three days of his life without food or drink or any interactions but prayer. He was discovered in his cell, with his body in a position of prayer.


His feast day is March 27 in the Western churches and June 12 in Eastern Orthodoxy.

St John of Egypt, as we prepare our souls this Holy Week, pray for us, that we may confess and repent of the sins that we hide even from ourselves. Amen.

Source: mycatholic.life

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

Parish Roster

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER 1/4/2023 to 2/4/2023 PASSION SUNDAY YEAR A (PALM SUNDAY)			
	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul C.
Reader1	Miriam B	Rebecca R	Eva F
Reader2	Margaret B	Ann L	Leon J
Prayers	John V	Bernadette W	Xavier F
TV		Sebastian W	Teresa G
<i>Dramatised Gospel</i>	<i>Mary C & Sr Carol</i>	<i>Kath M & Matt W</i>	<i>Caitlyn M & Maria G</i>
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Marisa Q	Martina J
Music		Theresa N	Adam F
Music		Helen F	
Morning Tea		Rosie S	
 FLOWERS	NOT DURING LENT		

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 Administrator: 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](https://www.facebook.com/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.