St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit.

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

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

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am 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 B

16 & 17 MARCH 2024

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.

SELF REFLECTION: DEEPER LIFE

Sundays' Gospel, John 12:20-30, Jesus said "unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."

In every death, there is life - this is the big message of Lent and of Easter. The grain of wheat will die and will through death nourish us with food. In the death of relationships, of health, of faith and all that may be dear to us there is always the invitation to deeper life. In our final death is the call to everlasting life.

- How am I connected to Jesus?
- Does my life reflect the teachings of Jesus?
- Do I try to walk with Jesus?
- What in my life do I need to let go of today?
- What might I need to leave behind?
- What needs to die so that something new can arise?

Lord,

Help me to connect to you deeply in your teachings and walk with you. Help me let go of things that are of the world and not of the spirit so that I may only see you. Amen.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: *Jeremiah* 31:31-34 (Year B) (JB) A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour,



or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 5:7-9 (Year B) (JB)* A reading from the letter to the Hebrews *He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.



The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 12:20-30 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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



YEAR B

GOSPEL REFLECTION

5th Sunday in Lent, March 17 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15 Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33

When I am lifted up from this earth, I will draw everyone to myself. (John 12:32)

This is not the first time in John's Gospel that Jesus uses the image of being "lifted up" to describe his crucifixion (John 12:32). Earlier, Jesus compared Moses' lifting of the serpent in the desert to himself being "lifted up" (3:14). Then, speaking to the religious leaders, he said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM" (8:28).

Of course, after Jesus was nailed to a cross, he was physically lifted up. But John's repeated use of the phrase goes beyond that. Jesus' crucifixion, as horrible and painful as it was, was also an exaltation. That's because through his cross and resurrection, Jesus saved the world. It was a victory over sin, Satan, and death.

This is the paradox of the cross. It was through Jesus' suffering and death that he was glorified—and brought glory to his Father's name (John 12:28). It was by becoming that grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies that Jesus was able to "produce much fruit" (12:24). That "fruit"—our salvation—is why we reverence the cross. It is also why Jesus could talk of his impending death as a lifting up. It was truly a triumph of love over death.

Jesus also promised to "draw everyone" to himself (John 12:32). This,too,was the fruit of his sacrifice. The cross removed the barrier of sin that blocked our relationship with the Father. Now, forgiven and made blameless through Jesus' blood, we have become sons and daughters of God. Drawn into the heart of the Trinity, we can enjoy eternal life with God, both now and forever.

Today at Mass, gaze at the crucifix above the altar and let it speak to you of God's infinite love for you. Then praise and thank Jesus for his willingness to suffer and die so that you might live.

"Jesus, I exalt your name over all the earth!"

Source: Word Among Us India



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2024

FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday mornings 9am Friday nights 6.30pm



You are all invited to Stations of the Cross inside the Parish Church every Wednesday morning 9am and Friday nights 6:30pm for prayer, reflection and meditation on Christ's Passion.



Holy Thursday – Easter Sunday 28 – 31 March 2024

Camp under the open skies, joining in the celebration of Easter through prayer, worship, liturgy, drama, music & personal sharing with 1000 people under a massive marquee.

Held over 4 days on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW, LTTN is an experience like no other. Enter into the Easter story, be forever changed.

FIND OUT MORE LTTN.ORG.AU









Light to the Nations is a work of **DISCIPLES OF JESUS COMMUNITY**

ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 7 APRIL 10AM TO 3PM

If any local businesses or entrepreneurs would like to hold a stall please let us know.

We need donations of **fresh flowers** on the **day before the fete** please.

We also need NEW gifts for chocolate wheel.

We are still in need of **good quality items**, please NO ELECTRICAL GOODS unless brand new in their original boxes. Loose items need to be in boxes. If you have any unwanted new gifts that would be great too.

Raffle tickets are now available to collect at both entries of the church. If you wish to have more please call Tania call on: 0401 597 278

We have fantastic prizes this year! We appreciate all the parishioners and local shops who donated the gifts. Also we would like to thank in advance all the parishioners who will help sell the tickets! Tickets are \$3.00 each, \$30 per book.

The raffle will be drawn at 2pm at the Fete Sunday, 7TH April 2024. Good Luck!

Next Fete meeting date: Tues 19th March 7.15pm.

ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE

RAFFLE TICKETS

Please **bring back your raffle tickets that are sold** as soon as possible to the parish office or to Father Shansana. **More tickets** are available from the Church entries.



There are separate raffle tickets for the **CALF**, kindly donated by the Monastery. The tickets are \$10 each and available from parish office, sacristy office or Robin. Otherwise tickets will be sold and drawn on the fete day.

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 Helen Facione, Matthew Eddington (Angela Scotti's nephew), Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, May they rest in Peace.



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

CATECHISTS' NEWS



ROSE GRANATA

Thank you for being a catechist, also on the roster for flowers. God bless you in all you do for our parish!

Who would you like to nominate for next week? Please let us know so we can acknowledge their kindness.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

WATCH THIS SPACE!



We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for 8-12yr olds is in the pipeline!

Our anticipated start is April/May. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Volunteers aged 14-16yrs who would like to assist us please let Father Shansana or Paula know.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Congratulations to the children who received their 1st Reconciliation on Saturday!

Please pray for these children as they continue their preparation for 1st Communion in June.



Our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation, students in year 3 and above.

Confirmation Cucharist Reconciliation



CRAFT GROUP

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

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. Everyone welcome.

Come and meet new people and have a cuppa! For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987. We are now more than half way through the term with Easter coming close. Many of our lessons have been focussing on Lent and how we can respond to God's call. Now we start turning our attention to Easter and God's love. This year Term 1 continues for two weeks after Easter.

Free ongoing training for Catechists with full Authorisation – Teaching Discipleship in the 21st Century – Monday 15th April 6:30pm-8:30pm via Zoom or Tuesday 16th April 10am – 12:30pm at Pennant Hills. RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

If you would like to keep our Catechists in prayer, there are prayer cards, at the church entrances, to take home.

God bless, Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator



RFS ARCADIA ATTENDING OUR FETE

Arcadia's Rural Fire Service will be attending our fete on Sunday 7th of April. Please feel free to bring in photos and plans of your house and they can have a look at layout for fire protection.

This year has been wet, next year could be very exciting.

They will have FIREWISE kits available to take that will help you prepare.

They are happy to talk to people about joining the RFS.

Arcadia did a big burn on Tuesday and Wednesday nearby. This is a big effort and makes the local area much safer.



LENTEN GROUP

Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone encouraging our community to make Lent much more meaningful and spiritual.

Final session this Wednesday March 20th 2024

Address: 726A Old Northern Road, Dural. Ph: Benigna 0450 311 951

> Program led by Gebran Azzi. **Everyone welcome!**



SAINT OF THE WEEK



Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day: March 19

Patron Saint of the Universal Church, fathers, carpenters, and a happy death

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus. ~Matthew 1:24–25

Reflection: The Father in Heaven sent His Son into the world to be born of the Virgin Mary. The Father chose her who was the Immaculate Conception to bear His Son in her womb, bring Him into the world, and raise Him from infancy to adulthood. But the Father also needed to choose a foster father for His divine Son. Of all the men in Israel that He could have chosen, He chose Joseph of Nazareth, a carpenter. Today's solemnity not only honors him, but it also points us to his marital union with the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the effect that that marriage had not only upon him, Mary and Jesus, but also upon us as members of the Body of Christ.

Joseph was likely born in the small town of Bethlehem, where Jesus was also born, but he moved to Nazareth with Mary and Jesus after returning from Egypt in order to keep Jesus safe from Archelaus, the ruler of Judea. Though there are a number of apocryphal writings about him from the first several centuries, nothing is known about him for certain except what is contained in the Gospels. But the Gospels tell us all we need to know about this holy, obedient, and just man, who was given authority over the Son of God and continues to exercise a holy authority over the entire Church.

Saint Joseph was truly the father of Jesus. Of this truth, Saint Augustine writes, "By reason of their faithful marriage, both of them deserve to be called Christ's parents, not only his mother but also his father, who was a parent in the same way that he was the mother's spouse: in mind, not in the flesh." Joseph's fatherhood is also clearly established by the fact that the angel gave him the responsibility of naming Jesus. "She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus..." (Matthew 1:21).

Saint Joseph was obedient to the Father in Heaven, and that obedience deepened his union with Mary his spouse, making their marriage the ideal family for the Son of God. Pope Saint John Paul II speaks of this fact in his apostolic exhortation *Guardian of the Redeemer*, when he says, "One can say that what Joseph did united him in an altogether special way to the faith of Mary. He accepted as truth, coming from God, the very thing that she had already accepted at the Annunciation" (#4). Saint Joseph's obedience is clearly seen in his response to four dreams by which an angel instructs Joseph how best to guard and protect the Son of God. Joseph acts immediately, in obedience, to the angel's instructions. The Vatican II document, *Dei Verbum* states, "'The obedience of faith' must be given to God as he reveals himself. By this obedience of faith man freely commits himself entirely to God, making 'the full submission of his intellect and will to God who reveals,' and willingly assenting to the revelation given by him" (#5). Thus, since Saint Joseph's obedience was absolute, then that obedience fully united him to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her obedience, and to the Father in Heaven. His obedience to the Father also enables him to become a powerful instrument of the Father's authority on earth, exercised through him.

Saint Joseph exercised the authority of the Father by protecting the Son of God and expecting obedience from the Son as His earthly father. That Jesus was obedient to Joseph is made clear in the Gospels: "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them..." (Luke 2:52). The Son of God could only be obedient to the will of His Father. Therefore, in order for Joseph to exercise authority over Jesus, he had to enact nothing other than the will of the Father to which he, himself, was obedient.

On December 8, 1847, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the Universal Patron and Protector of the Catholic Church. This unique title reflects the same truth that Mary is the Mother of God and the Mother of the entire Church. Since she was the mother of the Son of God, and we, the Church, are members of the Body of Christ, then she is our Mother. And since Joseph was the father of the Son of God, His guardian and protector, over whom he was given authority, and from Whom he received obedience, then we, too, can trust in Joseph's guardianship over us. We must have confidence in submitting to his spiritual authority in our lives, for we are members of the Body of Christ.

As we honor Saint Joseph as the husband of Mary today, ponder the effect of that unique marriage bond. Saint Joseph was not perfect, but his absolute obedience to the Father's will and his unity in marriage to the Mother of God makes him our father, just as he was the father of Jesus. As a loving father, he will direct us with the authority of God the Father, will protect us in times of trouble as he did for Jesus and Mary, and must always be seen as one uniquely chosen to be the father of the family to which we belong.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, you were obedient to the will of the Father in Heaven as it was revealed to you by an angel. You took Mary as your wife and Jesus as your Son. You raised Him, protected Him, and exercised a fatherly authority over Him. Please exercise that same fatherly authority, given to you by the Father in Heaven, over my life. I entrust myself to your intercession and authority and pray that you protect me always, guiding me to your Son in Heaven. Saint Joseph, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

FETE STALL HOLDERS:							
PLEASE CONTACT THE BELOW TO SEE WHERE YOU CAN HELP							
STALL	VOLUNTEER						
BBQ and drinks	Andrew Sakkal 0419 333 134						
Fruit and veggies	Kazzi family 0416 169 570						
Cake	Bernadette Watt and Amal Shaheen 0409 297 740						
Pop corn Slushy Hot dog Fairy Floss	Ramza Saliba 0414 391 903						
Devonshire Tea	Leonie Miller 8850 6456						
Lollies table and lolly counting jar	Tyrone and Paul 0408 277 718						
Plants	Judy Horton 0419 604 701						
Trash and Treasure (secondhand toys and any goods, donated items + books)	Mary Abood 0416 261 994 Daniel and Mandah Vella (please bring good items—no electrical)						
Maker's Table & Colouring in	Nerida, Martine & Sophie 0425 834 017						
Chocolate Wheel	David Camilleri (info@camhaul.com.au) (please bring new items)						
Raffle	Tania Tassone & Liz Wallace 0401 597 278						
Fire truck - Arcadia RFS	Arcadia - Tom						
Books	Melanie Hume and Nigel Morgan						
Flowers	Jessie Guiana 9651 1136 (please help by bringing fresh flowers the day before)						
Parousia Media PTY LTD	Charbel Raish 0404 292 855						
Party Shop	Lila Bacha 0418 360 024						
Candy Crew Stall	Kathy Raish						
Kirei Beauty and Wellness Centre	Andrea Winberg 0411 166 371						
Serendipity Gifts	Lucy 0401 930 012						
Face painting	Andrew and Tania Sakkal						
Rides	Andrew Sakkal						
Parking attendants	We need volunteers please						



A big thank you to the committee members' hard work and all who have helped in many ways and donated to the Fete so far. Everyone has been amazing. This is what Parish community is all about! Love and kindness! God bless you all!

PROJECT COMPASSION

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia







Parish	Roster					
PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS						

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

23/3/2024 TO 24/3/2024 PALM SUNDAY - YEAR B

	Saturday 7.00pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am			
Acolyte		Nigel M				
Reader1	Kathryn S	Kath M	Teresa G			
Reader2	Maria G	Ann L	Peter B			
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Peter G	Lorna B			
тν		Jules O	Michael E			
Music		Karina S	Melanie H			
Music		Noelle T	Keith W			
Music		John T	Christian R			
Music			Don R			
Morning Tea		Tania T				
FLOWERS	NO FLOWERS 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 office.



PARISH EASTER MASS TIMES 2024

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 23rd March Vigil 7pm. Sunday 24th March 9.00am & 10.30am. Latin 4.30pm.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm Parish only.

GOOD FRIDAY 29th March

10.30am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

EASTER VIGIL Saturday 30th March 7.30pm.

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday 31st March 9.00am. Latin 10.30am.

Monastery daily 7am

NEW ROSTER

NEW ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY OFFICE. PLEASE COLLECT YOUR COPY ASAP.

EASTER TRIDUUM ROSTER

PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE BLANK ROSTER AT SACRISTY WINDOW

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 OFF	ICE HOURS: 9.30am to 2.30pm	Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia			
Parish Office: Email:	, 02 9653 2312 arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au	MONASTERY:	9653 1159	Facebook	
Parish Priest: Email: After hours:	Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com 0437 884 233	BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund			
Address: Postal address:	2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159	and Safeguardi	ccupational Health & ng Children matters on 0416 081 882.	-	