

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**YEAR C**  
**5 & 6 APRIL 2025**

**GO AND SIN NO MORE**

**John 8:1-11**

Sin condemns, but Jesus forgives

## 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 9:00am to 10:00am  
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**

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr Shansana 0437 884 233**



## ENTRANCE PROCESSION

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.

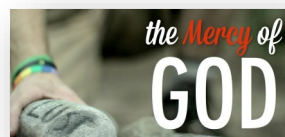
## SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

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: MERCY

John 8:1-11 reminds me to withhold judgment and focus on my own flaws before condemning others. Jesus' mercy toward the woman teaches me the power of forgiveness and transformation, urging me to extend grace and strive for change in my own life.

- *How often do I judge others without reflecting on my own flaws first?*
- *Am I quick to extend grace and forgiveness, as Jesus did, or do I hold grudges?*
- *In what areas of my life do I need God's mercy and transformation?*
- *How can I show more compassion to others who are struggling or have made mistakes?*
- *Do I fully embrace God's forgiveness and allow it to change my actions and heart?*



Lord, help me to reflect on my own flaws before I judge others. Teach me to extend grace and forgiveness, as You did with the woman caught in sin. Fill my heart with Your mercy and guide me toward transformation, that I may live a life that reflects Your love. Amen.

**First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 (Year C) (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.*

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R.** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14 (Year C) (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.*

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**  
**With all your heart turn to me,**  
**for I am tender and compassionate.**  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

**GOSPEL: John 8:1-11 (Year C) (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

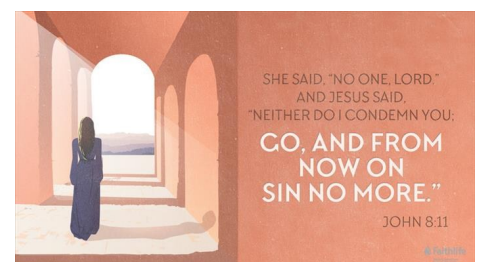
*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

**Sunday, April 6**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

**Psalms 126:1-6**

**Philippians 3:8-14**

**John 8:1-11**

*Forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead. . . . (Philippians 3:13)*

St. Paul's description of his life in Christ can sound like a burdensome set of rules: accept the loss of all things; share in Jesus' sufferings; forget what lies behind; strain toward God's upward calling.

But Paul was *happy* to do all of this. Why? Because he had been changed. He had encountered Jesus, experienced his mercy, and was convinced that his new life was infinitely better! The imprint of Paul's experience of conversion on the road to Damascus, and every choice he made to follow Jesus thereafter, transformed his perspective. The entire direction of his life was different.

You can imagine something similar happening in the heart of the woman caught in adultery in today's Gospel reading. Her sin was laid bare before Jesus, and she was about to be killed by an angry mob. But she received God's unexpected and surprising mercy as Jesus dispersed the crowd and said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more" (John 8:11). Surely, empowered by Jesus' words, she gladly accepted the loss of her old way of life, just as Paul did. She was happy to forget the emptiness of what lay behind her and, by God's grace, to strain toward his upward calling of a life free from her past sins.

How have you encountered Jesus? You might have decided to give your life completely to him at a pivotal point. You might have brought a burdensome sin to Confession and been convinced of God's forgiveness and love. Maybe you're longing for an even deeper encounter right now! These experiences can change your heart and shape your perspective. They make losing your life apart from Jesus—even when it involves difficulty—completely worth it! You, like Paul, can hold onto the "supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus [your] Lord" (Philippians 3:8).

***"Jesus, I will follow you!"***

Source: [www.word-sunday.com](http://www.word-sunday.com)

## **LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

### **APRIL**

**Monday 7**

Readings: Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62.

**R:** Though I walk in the valley of darkness I fear no evil, for you are with me.

**St John Baptist de la Salle, priest.**

**Tuesday 8**

Readings: Num 21:4-9. Jn 8:21-30.

**R:** O Lord hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you.

**Wednesday 9**

Readings: Dan 3:14-20, 24-25, 28 Jn 8:31-42.

**R:** Glory and praise for ever!

**Thursday 10**

Readings: Gen 17:3-9. Jn 8:51-59.

**R:** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

**Friday 11**

Readings: Jer 20:10-13. Jn 10:31-42.

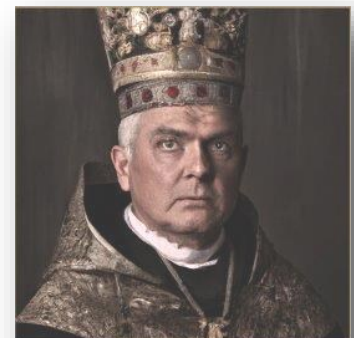
**R:** In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he heard my voice.

**St Stanislaus, bishop, martyr.**

**Saturday 12**

Readings: Ezek 37:21-28. Jn 11:45-56.

**R:** The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.



**Prayer to St. Stanislaus**

St. Stanislaus, patron saint of Poland, please intercede for us before God and grant us the courage to stand up for justice and truth in all aspects of our lives. May your example inspire us to live with humility, compassion, and a deep love for our fellow human beings. Amen.

Source: Ordo 2025



### **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025**

#### **For the use of the new technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



## REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:



**PELLEGRINO VACCARRELLA**



Funeral at:

**St Benedict's Church Monday 7th April 11am**

Burial at Castle Hill Cemetery

The family invite you to join with them at  
5 Garemyn Road, Middle Dural  
To share refreshments from 2:00pm

*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 Caterina and  
family during this difficult time.  
May God comfort you all and grant you peace.*

## HILLSIDE RFS INFORMATION NIGHT

Join us for an Information Night hosted by Hillside RFS on **April 11th at 6:30PM** at 126 Cattai Ridge Rd.

Everyone is welcome, whether you're from the Hillside area or not. We will be showcasing what we do, offering advice on preparing your property for the upcoming fire season, and encouraging people to get involved. It doesn't take much time, but being prepared is crucial.

BBQ and drinks will be provided. We hope to see you there!



## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Date: Tuesday, 8th April**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

## PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR AND THAILAND

*Lord,*

*We pray for the people of Myanmar who are suffering from the devastation of the earthquake.*

*Grant them comfort, strength, and healing in this time of loss.*

*Surround them with Your love and help them rebuild their lives.*

*May Your peace be with all those affected, and may help and hope reach them swiftly.  
Amen.*

## WORKING BEE ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be having a **Working Bee** on **Saturday, April 12th** from **10:30 am to 12:30 pm**.



Please come and lend a hand as we clean up and care for the Lord's House. Your help will make a big difference in keeping our parish beautiful and welcoming for all. We look forward to seeing you there!

## CHRISM MASS 2025

### Invitation to the Chrism Mass

We warmly invite all parishioners to join Bishop Anthony and the clergy of Broken Bay for the Chrism Mass on **Tuesday, April 15th at 7:30 PM** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral. This is a beautiful occasion to come together as a community and celebrate the blessing of the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the Church. We hope you can join us for this special and meaningful event.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for the Stations of the Cross on:



**Wednesdays: 9:00 AM**, followed by Mass at 9:30 AM

## 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 Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, Father Alberic.**

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

***Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry, Colleen Bennett & Helen Facione.***

***~ May they rest in Peace.***



## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

*thank you*

**MARY CASCUN  
JOE GATT**

This week, we want to recognise Mary and Joe for their outstanding contributions. Mary consistently ensures that everything is spotless and well-maintained, bringing a sense of peace and cleanliness to our parish working so hard. Joe dedicates his time to the garden and upkeep of the parish grounds, keeping our surroundings beautiful and welcoming. We are truly blessed to have both of them working so faithfully for Our Lord's House.

Thank you, Mary and Joe, for all you do!

## LENTEN PROGRAM

### LAST SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL

**Benigna Cascun is hosting a Lenten Program:**

726a Old Northern Road, Dural.  
Every Wednesday night commencing  
12th March 2025  
Time 7.00pm  
**Led by Gebran Azzi.**

**Miriam Brown is hosting a Lenten Program:**

Parish meeting room  
2 Fagans Road, Arcadia.  
Every Wednesday afternoon commencing  
12th March 2025  
Time: 1.00pm  
**Led by Miriam Brown**

*Everyone is invited to attend and deepen their faith during this season of Lent.*

## ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

**YOUTH GROUP IS NOW FINISHED  
FOR THE TERM.**

- **Fridays SCHOOL TERM**
- Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
- Ages: 8-12 years old



If you are aged 14-16 and would like to help out, please email the parish office.

All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks. Thank you, Gabe & Jules!

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

First term is rapidly coming to an end, with this week being the final week of term. Term 2 will resume the week of the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

The final week in the free Ministry Induction training for new Catechists will be held this week. This week's topic is 'Lesson Planning Using Digital Resources' via Zoom.

Please continue to keep our Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers in this final week and over the school holidays. There are prayer cards at the church entrances you may wish to take home.

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless,  
Miriam Brown [srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



## PIETY SHOP NEWS

### PARISH PIETY SHOP HOURS

The Parish Piety Shop is open every Sunday. Additionally, it opens on the first Saturday night of every month and the first Sunday of each month, after the 7:00 AM Monastery Mass.

Easter cards are now available! Exciting Easter stock are slowly coming in. Please come have a look!

## ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

Some beautiful jewellery and keychains were made at our Polymer Clay workshop on Wednesday evening! Here is a photo!



Next month (May 7th) we will be making Rosary Beads. All ladies welcome!

to [themakerstablesydney@gmail.com](mailto:themakerstablesydney@gmail.com) or Martine  
0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425-834-017

## 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!

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Priest

**Feast Day: April 7**

**C. 1651 - 1719**

**Patron Saint of educators**

Canonized by Pope Leo XIII on May 24, 1900



John Baptist de La Salle was born into an upper-class family in Reims, France. He enjoyed a life of honor and social prestige, as well as an excellent and expensive education. When John was eleven, he and his parents made a promise of his lifelong service to the Church. At age sixteen, he became a canon of the ornate Reims Cathedral, acting as the cathedral's caretaker and advisor to the archbishop. He completed his education at some of the finest schools in France. He had to return home when both of his parents died to care for his six younger siblings and to oversee the family estate. Over the next five years, he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest at age twenty-six. He then completed his doctorate of theology and immersed himself in the life of a young and well-respected priest.

Father de La Salle's spiritual director, Father Nicolas Roland, had a saintly heart for the poor and the education of children. He helped found the Sisters of the Child Jesus whose mission was to care for the sick and educate poor girls. Father de La Salle served as chaplain and confessor and assisted them with their work. When Father Roland was dying, he exhorted Father de La Salle to continue on. Not drawn to the work, he reluctantly agreed and soon met Adrian Nyel, whom he assisted in founding two schools for poor boys in Reims. He later tried to withdraw but could not resist the sisters and Adrian who were passionate about education of the poor.

With Father de La Salle's own excellent education, he was well aware of the teachers' lack of skills and their poor personal formation. The students were often poorly brought up and "far from salvation," he would recount. Father de La Salle invited the teachers into his home, sharing meals with them, and teaching them how to be better teachers and men of God. To devote more time to them, he invited the teachers to live with him, drawing criticism from his wealthy relatives. Resistance and criticism from his social peers and even the bishop for associating with poor boys and poorly educated teachers continued. After prayerful consideration, Father de La Salle resigned as cathedral canon and devoted himself full-time to the education of the poor.

Father de La Salle gave away the small fortune he had inherited to the poor who were suffering from a famine in another city. He founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, relying on donations to educate poor boys.

Father de La Salle formed his brothers in the art of education with a clear system and classroom structure that was new, ordered, and effective. The brothers became master teachers and formed the boys in virtue and ordered living. He opened schools for teachers and educated poor children for free.

Father de La Salle remarked later in life that if he had known what God would ask of him from the beginning, he would have never said "Yes." But God, in His perfect wisdom, led him one step at a time, and Father de La Salle only had to respond to one gentle prompting of grace at a time.

*Saint John Baptist de La Salle, God led you one step at a time. Your generosity to the promptings of grace led you down a path you could have never imagined. Please pray that I will always be open to the plan God has for my life and will generously respond to that plan. Saint John Baptist de La Salle, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*





## ST BENEDICT'S YOUNG ADULTS FEEDING THE HOMELESS

**Thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated food for the night.** Last Saturday night went really well, we had 11 people or more volunteering as some people brought family and friends along with them.

Since we had so many people there was lots of food to go around for the homeless and it ended up being a big success, hopefully the first of many we will do with the group.

A big thank you to **Glenorie bakery** who also donated a large amount of bread and baked food which was all gone very quickly as it was a nice treat for all the people coming for food, so I'm very grateful for their donation.

We all drove down and when we got there we helped set up tables and got to work, there was another nice lady who was with the movement who kept things organised and supplied the tables.

It was really good to see all the people in need getting a healthy warm meal, and even better to see all the people from my group working hard and also enjoying themselves.

Cheers,  
Sam

*Some photos of the boys helping feed the homeless.*



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

### Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers 5 to 6 April 2025

This weekend, the Church will celebrate the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers, as part of the Jubilee 2025.

The two-day celebration honours sick and healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, health workers, volunteers in the health sector, and pastoral health workers.

Sick and health care workers play a vital role in our society, assisting people who are often in their most vulnerable and difficult moments of their life.

## PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY - 5 & 6 April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities



Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT  
COMPASSION

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 413.

# Parish Roster

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS**



## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**12/4/2025 TO 13/4/2025  
PALM SUNDAY - YEAR C**

	<b>SATURDAY 7.00pm</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9.00am</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Lorraine D	George A
<b>Reader1</b>	Maria G	Ann L	Adam F
<b>Reader2</b>	Natasha S	Keith W	Sarah F
<b>Dramatised Gospel</b>	Priest, Miriam B, Mary C	Priest, Kath M, Matt W	Priest, Mirko J, Sandra M
<b>Prayers</b>	Margaret B	Nigel M	Leanne A
<b>TV</b>		Teresa G	Jutrisa's
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		John T	Jack/Adam F
<b>Music</b>		Noelle T	Martina J
<b>Music</b>			Sandra M
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Mary A	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	No flowers	during lent	

## 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

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

## HOLY WEEK 2025



### Palm Sunday – 13th April

Monastery - 7.00am  
 Parish Church - 9.00am and 10.30am  
 Latin 4.30pm

### Holy Thursday 17th April

Parish Church only - 7.30pm



### Stations of the Cross - Good Friday 18th April

Parish Church - 10.30am



### Passion of the Lord - Good Friday 18th April

Parish Church - 3.00pm

### Easter Vigil - Holy Saturday 19th April

Parish Church - 7.30pm



### Easter Sunday - 20th April

Monastery - 7.00am  
 Parish Church - 9.00am  
 Latin 10.30am

## 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.

For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

## DID YOU KNOW...

We genuflect with our right knee at church facing the Tabernacle in the Presence of our Lord. The right knee is for God whereas the left is for man. Men use the left knee to propose to a woman.

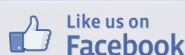
## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays & Fridays:** 9.30am to 2.30pm  
 (School holidays only open Fridays)

**Parish Office:** 02 9653 2312  
**Address:** 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159  
**Email:** arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au  
**Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233

**Facebook:** stbenedictsarcadia



**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**