

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

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 SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A

29 & 30 NOVEMBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
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: SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

This Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 24:37-44, Jesus reminds us to live each day with watchfulness and a faithful heart. Advent calls us not to fear His coming, but to welcome Him—daily—through prayer, charity, and a renewed commitment to holiness. We are invited to pause, look within, and make room for Christ.

I reflect:

1. What areas of my life need more spiritual alertness and attention?
2. Am I allowing the business of daily life to distract me from God's presence?
3. How can I better prepare my heart to meet Christ—today, not someday?
4. What actions, habits, or attitudes is the Lord inviting me to change?
5. Do I live with the hope and readiness that comes from trusting God's promises?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, awaken my heart to Your presence. Help me to live each day ready to welcome You—with faith, hope, and love. Clear away anything that distracts me from You, and strengthen me to walk in Your light. May this Advent be a time of renewal, so that when You come, You may find me watchful and at peace. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 24:37-44 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

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



"Let us walk in the light of the Lord."



"The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5 | Romans 13:11-14 | Matthew 24:37-44

Isaiah paints a vision of a world transformed by God's light, where nations seek the Lord and live in peace. This hope-filled image reminds us that God's plan is not only for the distant future but begins in our hearts today, as we turn from darkness to light.

Paul's words in **Romans** urge us to wake from spiritual sleep. The hour has come to cast aside sin and live as children of the light, clothing ourselves in Christ's love and righteousness. Advent is a season of preparation, not only for Christmas but for Christ's ongoing presence in our lives.

In **Matthew**, Jesus warns that His coming will be sudden, like in the days of Noah. Life may seem ordinary and routine, yet we are called to vigilance and readiness. This is not a call to fear, but to mindful living: being alert to God's presence in every moment, practicing charity, and cultivating faith, hope, and love.

Together, the readings challenge us to wake, watch, and prepare: to allow God's light to transform our hearts, our relationships, and our daily actions. As we journey through Advent, we are invited to live intentionally, so that when Christ comes—whether at the end of time, in the quiet moments of daily life, or at Christmas—we are ready to welcome Him with joy and peace.

Key Thought

Be awake, live in the light, and let hope guide your actions.

Take-Home Challenge

- Examine one area of your life where you are "asleep" to God's presence.
- Take a concrete step this week to walk in Christ's light: a kind word, a helpful deed, or extra time in prayer. Keep your heart open to Christ, even in ordinary moments.

Prayer

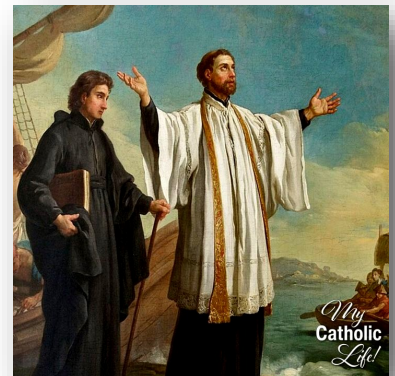
Lord Jesus, awaken my heart and help me walk in Your light. Teach me to live with hope, love, and readiness, so I may welcome You with joy today and always. Amen.

Source: chatgpt.com

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

December 2025

- Monday 1: Is 4:2-6. Mt 8:5-11.
R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
- Tuesday 2: Is 11:1-10. Lk 10:21-24.
R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
- Wednesday 3: Is 25:6-10. Mt 15:29-37.
R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
St Francis Xavier, priest.
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- Thursday 4: Is 26:1-6. Mt 7:21, 24-27.
R. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
St John Damascene, priest, doctor.
- Friday 5: Is 29:17-24. Mt 9:27-31
R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.
- Saturday 6: Is 30:19-21, 23-26. Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8.
R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.
St Nicholas, bishop



*St Francis Xavier,
Pray for us that we may
share the love of Christ with
all we meet, bring hope to
those in need, and serve
others with joy.
Amen.*

Source: Ordo 2025 image:



Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for December 2025:

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

PARISH NOTICE

Father Shansana will be away from 27th November to 9th December. Fr Eugene will be celebrating Masses in his place. (0499 548 521)

Please keep Fr Shansana in your prayers for a safe trip and a peaceful, refreshing time away. May the Lord bless his travels and bring him safely back to us.

PARISH UPGRADE WORKS NOTICE

Works have commenced for the **Government Grant** approved earlier this year.

A new **electrical switchboard** is being installed to support the new lines for the **security cameras, electric gate, carpark and entry lighting**, and other security and lighting.

Please note that there will be a full electrical shutdown on

Thursday 11th December, from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, as the parish switchboards are replaced and mains upgraded to the street. Mass on this day will be at 9:30 am—celebrated in the dark, offering a peaceful and solemn atmosphere.

We appreciate your understanding during these essential works. For any questions, please contact the **parish office**.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

DECEMBER 3

We join the global community in celebrating the gifts and dignity of people with disabilities. May we continue to promote inclusion, respect, and support for all members of our community.

Prayer:

Loving God, bless all people with disabilities. May they know Your love, feel valued in our communities, and inspire us to live with compassion and care. Amen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PIETY SHOP

We are seeking volunteers to help in the Piety Shop. If you are free and can spare a couple of hours during the week to help Lila sort items, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Lila on 0418 360 024

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

This week volunteers of the week nomination goes to:



MIRKO JUTRISA

This week, we thank **Mirko Jutrisa** for his dedication and generosity. Thank you, Mirko, for taking time out of your busy schedule, organising the electricians for the cameras installation, also for the lighting and assisting them as needed. We also appreciate your help around the parish and your willingness to always lend a hand! God bless you!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Next weekend Vinnies will be launching our annual Christmas Appeal. We will have **envelopes** in the church for donations of money as well as containers for **donations of food**, especially **Christmas foods** we can put in hampers for our clients. We will be collecting right up until Christmas and will be very grateful for any **donations** from the community.

Many thanks in anticipation,
Rita, Lila, Marie and Karen.

PIETY SHOP NEWS

Visit Our Parish Piety Shop!

Get Ready for Advent!

New Advent stock has arrived at the Piety Shop! Explore: Advent calendars, Advent puzzles, Advent candles etc.

These beautiful items are perfect for preparing your heart and home for Christmas.

Christmas stock IS NOW AVAILABLE come in and discover all the new items to support your Advent and Christmas journey!

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 *Gaston Florian, Vincent Bacha, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.*

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

Maria Pappallardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana ~ May they rest in Peace.



YEAR 6 RECOGNITION CHILDREN'S MASS

The parish warmly invites all Year 6 children to be recognised as they complete primary school at our next Children's Mass:

When: Sunday, 7th December
Time: 10:30am

All Year 6 children attending will receive a Bible and Certificate.

To assist with preparation, please RSVP to Miriam at srearcadia@gmail.com or contact the parish office if your child will be present.



Thank you!
Miriam Brown

CATHECHISTS' NEWS

End of year final SRE dates are –

Galston and Glenorie schools – finished

Arcadia and Middle Dural schools – next Wednesday 3rd December

Hillside school – Friday 12th December

Free training continues for all Catechists provided by the CCD –

- Ministry Induction training for Provisional Catechists Monday 1st December from 10am -12:15pm via Zoom. The final session will be "Lesson Planning Using Digital Resources".
- RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

Please keep our parish Catechists, and the students that they teach, in prayer as the teaching year ends. If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry or becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact myself or the parish office or one of our priests.

Here is a photo from the Diocesan Mass last weekend with Bishop Anthony. Congratulations to Geb Azzi, Miriam Brown, and Bernadette Watt for the milestones they have reached as catechists! Congratulations also to Rita Sarkis who could not attend. Thank you Leonie Miller for bringing the white rose in memory of Margaret McKinley.



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

CHILDREN'S MASS



**Next children's mass is on next
Sunday December 7th 10.30am
followed by morning tea and sweets!**

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

Journey to Bethlehem Shadow Boxes

3 DECEMBER 2025 **\$15 /PARTICIPANT**
7:30- 9:30PM RSVP BY 30 NOV

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH MEETING ROOM
2 FAGANS RD, ARCADIA

RSVP

Create.Share.Encounter themakerstablasydney@gmail.com
A Creative Women's Ministry Martine 0458-533-250 or Nerida 0425-834-017

ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Ages 8-12 years

Fridays 4.00pm to 5.30pm

A wonderful opportunity for children to **grow in faith, make friends, and enjoy fun activities** in a safe and welcoming environment. Come along and be part of the fun!

HEALING MASS

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

Next Mass is this Thursday 4th of December. There will be morning tea afterwards so please bring a dish to share.

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

Meets **4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am** in the parish meeting room.

No meeting in December — back in January.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John Damascene, Priest, Religious and Doctor

C. 676-749

Feast Day: December 4

**Patron Saints of pharmacists, icon painters, and theology students
Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1890**



John was born in Damascus, Syria to Christian parents. When Islamic conquerors captured Damascus in 635, they restricted Christians' rights. The local rulers held John's father in high esteem, so John received an excellent education and was well versed in Islamic law, culture, and theology. After his father's death, John was given an important role in the city's administration. Increasingly sensitive to the non-Christian environment, he resigned his position, sold his possessions, and retreated to the desert monastery of Mar Saba, near Jerusalem.

John spent his first two decades as a monk growing in spiritual perfection. He renounced his will, worldly attachments, pride, and seeking of extraordinary spiritual experiences. He dedicated all actions to God, maintained silence, studied, prayed, did penance, and fulfilled every humble task. He advanced so greatly that his superiors deemed him worthy of ordination. After ordination, John's superiors had him address theological issues within the Caliphate and Byzantine Empire.

The Islamic Umayyad Caliph opposed using icons and sacred images in Christian churches. In 721, he issued an edict by which Christian icons were destroyed. Between 726–729, Byzantine Emperor Leo III issued his own edicts outlawing icons and sacred images throughout the Byzantine Empire. The Patriarch of Constantinople and pope opposed Leo, so tensions grew between East and West.

Father John wrote *Apologetic Treatises against those Decrying the Holy Images*, articulating the theological rationale for using icons but in a way that the layman could understand. Father John first distinguished *latreia* (worship), due only to God, from *proskynesis* (veneration), directed towards sacred images representing divine figures. He argued that veneration of images was proper because of the Incarnation. In Christ, the invisible God became visible and material, sanctifying the physical world, endowing it to reflect God's majesty. Father John extended this logic to veneration of images of the saints who share in the glory of God's divine life .

Tradition holds that the Byzantine Emperor was so outraged at Father John's condemnation that he forged a letter, implicating Father John in a planned attack against Damascus. The Caliph ordered Father John's hand to be cut off and mounted on a pole. With the deed done, Father John beseeched Mary to intervene so he could continue writing. The next day, his hand was miraculously restored.

In 787, the Second Council of Nicaea exonerated John, ruling in favor of icon veneration. In addition to his writings against the iconoclasts, Saint John Damascene summed up the doctrinal teachings of the Early Church Fathers. He wrote against heresies and on logic and philosophy. Further works include hymns, letters, commentaries, and sermons, including a series on the Blessed Virgin Mary. He also pointed out many of Islam's flaws.

Saint John Damascene, God called you to a place where you could enter into deep communion with Him. There, you were formed in virtue and holy learning so God could use you for the good of the Church and His glory. Please pray that I will embrace a deeper conversion to be better equipped to serve God as He wills. Saint John Damascene, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026 VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our **Parish Fete** is coming up soon in March next year, and we need your help to make it a great success!

Volunteers Needed:

We're looking for enthusiastic helpers to assist at various stalls on the day. If you can lend a hand, please contact **Tania Tassone, Fete Coordinator**, on **0401 597 278**. Your time and support will make a big difference!

Donations Welcome:

We're also seeking **donations of prizes** for the **raffle** and **chocolate wheel**.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Only **brand new**, quality gifts will be accepted.
- **No second-hand items or books**, please.
- Think of prizes people would love to win — **homewares, hampers, toys, gift cards, beauty items, etc.**

Your generosity and support help make our fete a joyful community celebration. Thank you for your kindness and participation!

FETE MEETING

Our next Fete meeting will be held on
Tuesday 2nd December at 7pm

Everyone is welcome to join us to bring ideas to make this fete successful and fun once more!



CHRISTOPHER WEST | THEOLOGY OF THE BODY IMMERSION COURSE

Dr Christopher West and the Theology of the Body (TOB) Institute are bringing their flagship formation program to Sydney:

TOB I: Head & Heart Immersion Course

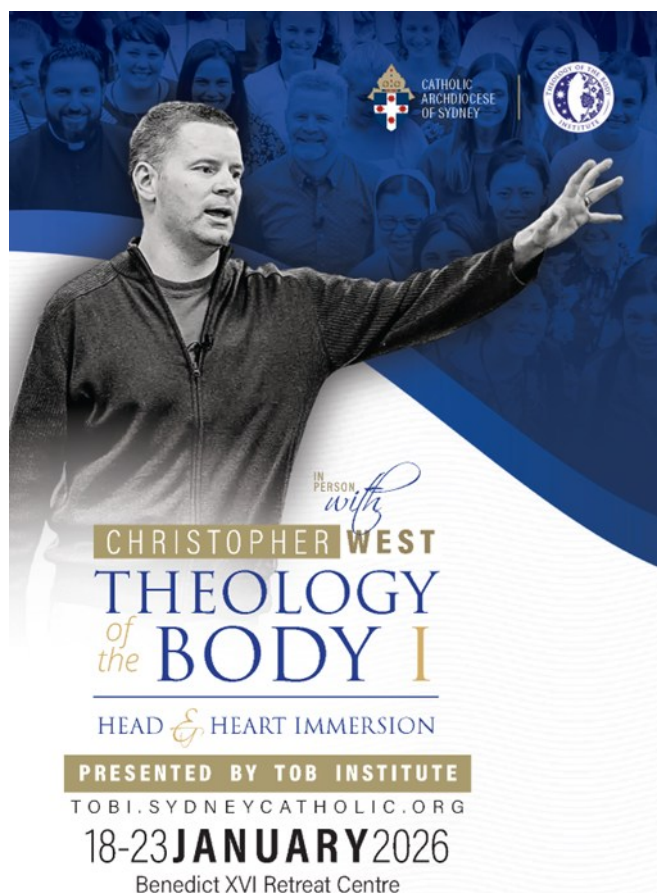
- 18–23 January 2026
- Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale

This **5.5-day intensive course** is open to priests, religious, teachers, lay leaders, and anyone seeking to understand and live **St John Paul II's life-changing teaching on human love, identity, and God's plan for the human person.**

Registrations close 8 December 2025.

[PROSPECTUS](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)





https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1439991?mc_cid=39b83cf136&mc_eid=b793673996

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER
6/12/2025 to 7/12/2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	Paul E
Reader1	Edyn V	Donna B	Children's Mass
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Matt W	Children's Mass
Prayers	Daniel V	Gabrielle W	Children's Mass
TV		Jules O	Mawhinney
EMHC 		Pam G	
EMHC 		Catherine C	
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Theresa N	Sandra M
Music		Marisa Q	Theresa N
Music			
Morning Tea		Teresa G	Robin B
FLOWERS	No flowers		

DID YOU KNOW...

The word "Amen" appears more than 50 times in the New Testament and means "so be it" or "truly."

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Vigil
Wednesday 24th Dec 2025
7.00pm & 11.30pm
(Midnight Mass commences 11.45pm)

Christmas Day
Thursday 25th Dec 2025
9.00am
10.30am Latin Mass

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Saturday Vigil 27th Dec 2025
7.00pm
Sunday 28th Dec 2025
9.00am & 10.30am
4.30pm Latin Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God
Thursday 1st Jan 2026
9.30am

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday Vigil 3rd Jan 2026
7.00pm
Sunday 4th Jan 2026
9.00am & 10.30am
4.30pm Latin Mass

FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday Vigil 10th Jan 2026
7.00pm
Sunday 11th Jan 2026
9.00am & 10.30am
4.30pm Latin Mass

MONASTERY CHAPEL

Daily as usual
7.00am

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.

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

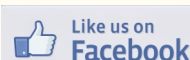
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm
(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](https://www.facebook.com/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

Support our parish!
Scan this QR code to make a donation.

