

# 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

"Triumph Over  
Temptation"

Matthew 4:1-11  
'The Temptation of  
Jesus'



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

25 & 26 FEBRUARY 2023

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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: TEMPTATION

#### **Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11**

*When Jesus ends up in the wilderness after his baptism for 40 days that was no accident. He is not lost, and he wasn't being punished for something he has done. He was led by the Holy Spirit for a purpose, to be tempted or tested by the devil. This is proof of his readiness as God's beloved Son. Yes he passed the test!*

- **How might I sometimes put God to the test?**
- **How am I being tempted in everyday life?**
- **Do I sometimes feel temptation is too good for me to say no?**
- **Do I think of Jesus and his temptation when I am being tempted?**
- **Do I pray to God not to lead me into temptation?**
- **Do I look for the Holy Spirit to help and strengthen me?**

**Become like Jesus**

**Resist**

**Temptation**

Dear Lord,

*Please send me the Holy Spirit to help and strengthen me in my times of crisis and trial. May the testing of my faith — the trials I face and the temptations Satan throws in my way — produce greater character in me. I want people to see you in my character and know that I am seeking to honour you. Amen.*

**First Reading****Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 (JB)**

A reading from the book of Genesis

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

**The word of the Lord.****Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.****Second Reading****Romans 5:12, 17-19 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

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

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

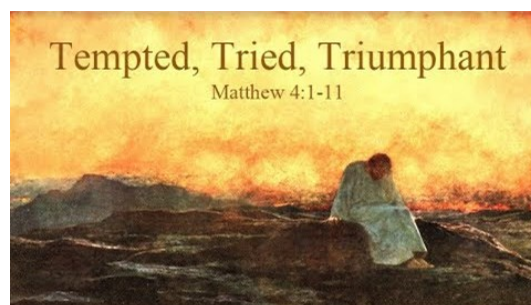
**GOSPEL****Matthew 4:1-11 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, February 26

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Psalms 51:3-6, 12-13, 17

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

*You will be like gods. (Genesis 3:5)*

We know what the first sin was: Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. But do you know what the first temptation was? "You will be like gods" (Genesis 3:5).

This is the temptation that has always plagued humanity. Like gods, we want to be in control. We want to decide what's right and wrong. We want the power, honor, and glory that belong only to the Lord.

This is the same temptation that Jesus conquered in his battle with Satan in the desert. In today's Gospel, the devil tries to tempt Jesus to rebel against his Father's plan. He taunts Jesus, saying, "If you are the Son of God . . ." (Matthew 4:2, 6). In other words, If you are really who you claim to be, don't wait for your Father's permission. Go ahead and act like God!

But Jesus "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped" (Philippians 2:6). Though he was God incarnate, he submitted to his Father's will each and every day. Finally, he undid that first sin of Adam when he offered himself on the cross to save us (Romans 5:12, 15).

This Lent, ask the Spirit to help you recognize where you are being tempted to rebel against God. It may be something subtle, like persisting in a bad habit. Or it may be something more obvious, like resisting God's will in a difficult situation or by choosing a different path than the one he has laid out for you.

Don't get discouraged if you see signs of rebellion. Instead, let the words of St. Paul in today's second reading encourage you: through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have all received an "abundance of grace" (Romans 5:17). That grace can help you overcome any temptation—including the temptation to be your own god! This Lent, just keep asking for God's grace, and trust that it will never run out.

***"Jesus, give me the grace to submit to you in all things."***

(Source: Word Among Us India Feb-Mar Pg 14)

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 27 Readings: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18. Mt 25:31-46.

**R:** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**St Gregory of Narek, abbot, doctor.**

Tuesday 28 Readings: Is 55:10-11. Mt 6:7-15.

**R:** From all their afflictions God will deliver the just.

### March

Wednesday 1 Readings: Jonah 3:1-10. Lk 11:29-32.

**R:** A broken, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

Thursday 2 Readings: Esther 14:1, 2-5, 12-14. Mt 7:7-12.

**R:** Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Friday 3 Readings: Ezek 18:21-28. Mt 5:20-26.

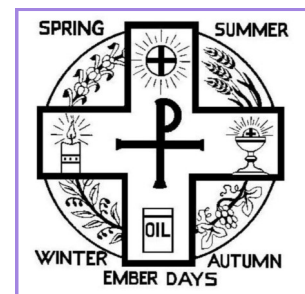
**R:** If you, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who would endure it?

**AUTUMN EMBER DAY - Special day of Prayer and Penance.**

Saturday 4 Readings: Deut 26:16-19. Mt 5:43-48.

**R:** Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

**St Casimir.**



**EMBER DAYS** seek God's blessing of favourable weather and a fruitful harvest from the land, interceding in times of drought or flood and giving thanks in better times.

Source: Ordo 2023

Source: Ordo 2023

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2023

### FOR PARISHES

***We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.***





## THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

### Chapter 4

*Daily in one's prayer, with tears and sighs, to confess one's past sins to God.*

#### 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

#### LENTEN GROUP

Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone encouraging our community to make Lent much more meaningful and spiritual. Reflecting on God's Word together and applying the Sunday readings to daily life. Seeking God together and praying for one another.

**Commencing Wednesday 1st of March at 7pm  
(every Wednesday thereafter until Good Friday)**

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

Program led by Gebran Azzi.

**Everyone welcome!**

*(If you would like to hold a Lenten group at your place during Lent on another night or day please contact the parish office or Father Shansana.)*

**NEXT CHILDREN'S MASS  
SUNDAY MARCH 5th 10:30AM**

#### CATHOLIC CARE

**Do you have a problem that you can't solve on your own? Contact CatholicCare.**



#### ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

**FR MICHAEL KELLY**

**27th February 1965 - 58 years**

Congratulations and best wishes on the Anniversary of your Religious profession commitment.

The parish of St Benedict's give thanks to the Lord for your vocation and your faithful commitment to the Lord. Thank you for your many years of loving service. God's richest blessings be yours.

#### PROJECT COMPASSION



Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school. Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023**



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting:

[www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion),

or by calling 1800 024 413.

## In Our Parish

**We welcome into God's family, all who were recently baptised.**

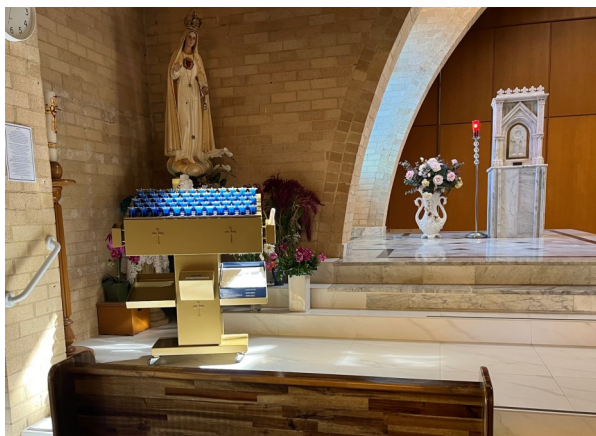
**We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Brother Mario and Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum).**

**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Michela Scotti, Tim Hewitt and Denise Perry.....may they Rest in Peace.**



## VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

Thank you to the Fatima Committee for donating the beautiful candle stand in front of Our Lady. We are so blessed to have such a giving community!



## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week we would like to thank **MIRIAM BROWN** for volunteering to coordinate the Catechists which is such a big job on its own! Miriam also organises the music on Saturday nights and always helps out when needed in the office. Thank you for everything you do for us!

*Is there someone you would like to nominate?  
Please mention it to Fr Shansana or Paula.*

## THANK YOU

Another thank you to **Melanie Hume and Robin Barbara** for helping out with clearing out the paperwork from the Parish Priest office and the Parish office after the carpet change.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RESUMES

**For those already enrolled:**  
**First Reconciliation Classes** begin:

Mondays 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 until 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 4.15pm to 5.15pm  
Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 until 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

**1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation on – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 10am**

(our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation).



## 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

SRE (Scripture) starting dates:  
Hillside SRE classes resumed this week.  
Galston – Wednesday 1st March – \*\*note changed date\*\*

Free training currently available – this week 27th/28th February Monday 10am – 12:30pm and Tuesday 6:30pm – 8:30pm via Zoom – on Safeguarding Children. This training is for new Catechists or those on Provisional Authorisation cards. Next week the topic will be Lesson Planning: Teaching the Authorised Curriculum.

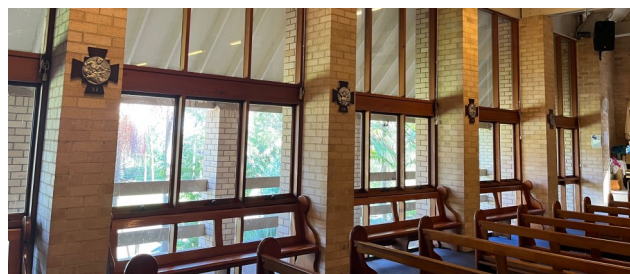
It is always helpful to have more Reserve Catechists and helpers, for times when people are away or unable to take their class. If you are available on Wednesday or Friday morning during school terms and love being with children, talk to myself or one of our Catechists or any of our priests. Training, a Teacher's Manual and workbooks are provided free.

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

## 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.



## CHAIRS

**One last call if anyone wants to take these chairs please do so as we have no use for them.**

**If they are not taken by early March they will be sent to council clean up.**



## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

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



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

Please join us for World Day of Prayer on:

**Date:** Friday 3rd of March 2023, 10.30am  
**Location:** Seventh Day Adventist Church  
49 Arcadia Road,  
GALSTON

For more information contact Pauline Honor Ph: 0490 025 759.

Country being presented: TAIWAN. Christian ladies in Taiwan have prepared the service for World Day of Prayer.



**Artist: Hui-Wen HSAIO**

Hui-Wen HSAIO was born in Tainan, Taiwan, in 1993. In 2017, she received her bachelor's degree in Visual Communication Design at Kun Shan University in Tainan. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Intermedia Art Therapy (Intermediate Kunsttherapie) at MSH Medical School in Hamburg, Germany.

### **"I Have Heard About Your Faith"**

*The theme is God's promise in the letter to the Ephesians, which is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers.*

*Following the example of the letter (Ephesians 1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.*

## NUN RUN SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023

**Come and See the Beauty of Consecrated Life**



*"Lay all your cares about the future trustingly in God's hands and let yourself be guided by the Lord"*  
- St Edith Stein

Thinking about Consecrated Life? Want to know more about the different religious communities residing in Sydney?

A Nun Run will be held on Saturday 4 March 2023, visiting a number of religious communities including:

- Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia
- Tyburn Priory
- Little Sisters of the Poor
- Missionaries of Charity
- Marian Community of Reconciliation (Fraternas)
- Missionaries of God's Love

Travel between the communities will be by private bus. Lunch, Dinner & a snack pack will be provided. Women aged 18-35 are welcome but registrations are necessary!

Register here: <https://forms.gle/ZZjKmGAKqo5ivLGt9>

Please RSVP by Tuesday 28 February 2023.

Call the Vocations office on 0418 522 449 for more info.



## **Saint Angela of the Cross Guerrero**

**30 January 1846—2 March 1932**

**Feast Day: March 2**



One of fourteen children born to a poor but pious family; only five of her siblings survived to adulthood.

Her father worked as a cook and her mother a laundress in a *Trinitarian Fathers* convent, and Angela had to quit school at age twelve to work in a shoe factory to help support her family. She made her First Communion at age eight, Confirmation at nine; she prayed the rosary daily, and had a great devotion as a youth to Christ Crucified. Her piety was so obvious that her employer, Antonia Maldonado, brought her to the attention of Father José Torres Padilla. He became her spiritual director when she was 16, and helped discern if Angela had a call to religious life.

She first tried to join the Carmelites, was refused, and when she was finally accepted at age 19, became so sick that she was forced to return to her family. When she recovered, she began caring for cholera victims, and those even poorer than herself. In 1868 she entered the convent of the *Daughters of Charity* of Seville, Spain, but again her health failed, and she was forced to return to her parents and the shoeshop. In 1871, with Father Padilla's blessing, she started a plan whereby she lived at home under a particular Rule, yearly renewing her vows.

While in prayer in 1873 Angela received a vision that she understood was calling her to a mission to the poor, and she began keeping a spiritual diary to record what she understood of the life to which God was calling her. Others were attracted to her life, and on 2 August 1875 the *Congregation of the Cross* was born. The *Congregation* works with the sick, the poor, orphans, the homeless, finding them food, medicine, housing, and other needs, living solely on alms, and keeping only enough for themselves to continue their work. Though they started with only Mother Angela and three sisters, they had grown to 23 convents during her life, and continue their good works today.

*"The nothing keeps silent, the nothing does not want to be, the nothing suffers all. The nothing does not impose itself, the nothing does not command with authority, and finally, the nothing in the creature is practical humility".*

– Saint Angela

*"Love and sensitivity to the poor...prompted Saint Angela of the Cross to found her "Company of the Cross" for the most deprived with a charitable and social dimension that made an enormous impact on the Church and society of Seville in her day. Her distinctive traits were naturalness and simplicity, seeking holiness with a spirit of mortification and at the service of God in her brothers and sisters."*

– Pope John Paul II in his homily at the canonization of Saint Angela

***Blessed Angela, your decision to serve and live with the poor leads me to examine my own attachment to wealth and comfort. Amen.***

*Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass*

**NEW ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY. PLEASE PICK UP A COPY.**

**NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER**

**4/3/2023 to 5/3/2023**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A**

	<b>Saturday 7pm</b>	<b>Sunday 9am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Lorraine D	Paul E/Jerry L
<b>Reader1</b>	Mary C	Judy H	CHILDREN'S MASS
<b>Reader2</b>	Sr Carol T	Peter G	CHILDREN'S MASS
<b>Prayers</b>	Miriam B	Ann L	CHILDREN'S MASS
<b>TV</b>		Nigel M	Caitlyn M
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Karina S
<b>Music</b>		Marisa Q	Noelle T
<b>Music</b>		Teresa G	
<b>Music</b>		Keith W	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Tania T	
 <b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>NOT DURING LENT</b>		

*Parish Roster*

*Thank You!*

*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](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)  
**Facebook:** 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.**