

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

26 & 27 NOVEMBER 2022



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
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

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.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Let us pray:

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: BE READY

Sunday's Gospel, Jesus said "Stay awake.....you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matthew 24:43-44)

Staying awake does not mean staying awake all night but to be alert and live in the present so we can notice our Lord when he does appear in our lives. He shows himself in times you will not be ready for him.



• **Am I alert and "awake" living in the present moment recognising the Lord if he appears in my life?**

• **When my time comes to face God, will I hear the words 'Well done'?**

• **If life-changing moments happen to enter my life will I be in tune with Jesus ready for whatever may come?**

• **Am I present to the Lord's daily appearances in my life even in my ordinary routine?**

Dear Lord,

I want to be ready and waiting for the day when you do come. Help me be awake living in the present moment at every moment in my life especially the times I need you the most. Enter my heart with your Spirit to help me encourage others to be also ready for You. 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:

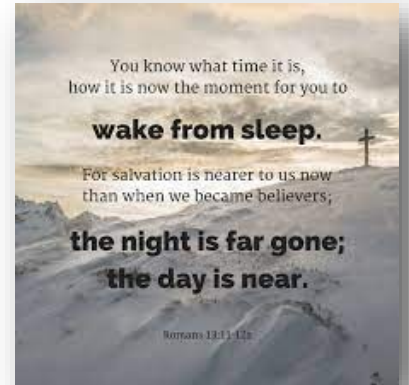
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; 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:****R. 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.

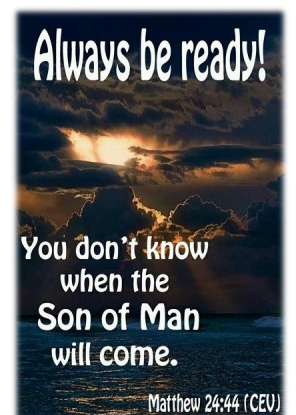
Alleluia!

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.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, November 27

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44

You also must be prepared. (Matthew 24:44)

This is it—we have lit the first Advent candle. Christmas is less than four weeks away, so we need to get ready. If we plan on giving gifts, sending Christmas cards, or having guests over for Christmas dinner, now is the time to start planning.

Jesus is saying something similar in today's Gospel reading, but with a different focus: "Get ready; you don't know when I will come again!"

So how can we prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming, both at Christmas and at the Second Coming? Here's one idea: just as you give Christmas gifts to your friends and family, think of a gift you could give the Christ child. Here are some possibilities.

—Set aside an hour each week to sit before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In the quiet of his presence, praise and thank him for becoming a man and saving you from sin and death.

—Serve the needy in some way. Volunteer at a food kitchen, buy gifts for a family that is struggling, or help decorate the home of an elderly relative or neighbor.

—See where you have strayed from God. Then go to Confession and receive his forgiveness and the grace to follow him more closely.

—Is there anyone you need to forgive? Ask Jesus to help you forgive that person, and then reconcile with them if possible.

As you decide what you will give Jesus, remember: it's not only about what you do to get ready for his coming. It's also about what he wants to do for you.

—As you sit before him in adoration, he wants to give you his peace.

—As you reach out to the needy, he wants to encounter you in his beloved poor.

—As you go to Confession, he wants to fill you with his mercy.

—As you forgive other people, he wants to help heal your wounded relationships.

Jesus is so generous that he wants to help you get ready for him. So slow down this Advent and let him give you the gift of a ready and willing heart.

"Jesus, I long for your coming. Help me to get ready!"

(Source: Word Among Us India Oct-Nov22 Pg 58)

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 28 Readings: Is 4:2-6. Mt 8:5-11.
R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

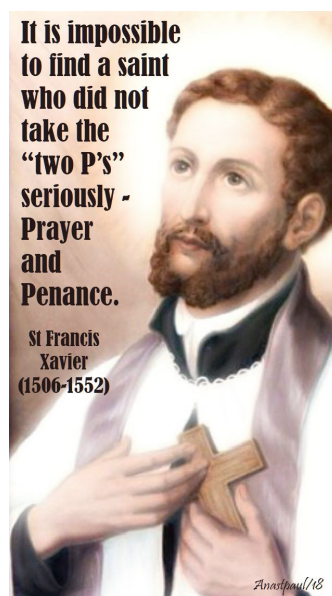
Tuesday 29 Readings: Is 11:1-10. Lk 10:21-24.
R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Wednesday 30 Rom 10:9-18. Mt 4:18-22.
R: Their message goes out through all the earth.
St Andrew, apostle.

Thursday 1 Readings: Is 26:1-6. Mt 7:21, 24-27.
R: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Friday 2 Readings: Is 29:17-24. Mt 9:27-31.
R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

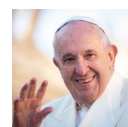
Saturday 3 Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26. Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8.
R: Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.
St Francis Xavier, priest.



Source: Ordo 2022

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2022 CHILDREN WHO SUFFER

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection. Amen.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To apply oneself frequently to prayer.

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

PARISH COUNCIL

There is a suggestion box in the Church with "**Dear Parish Council**" written on it. If you have any suggestions or queries please feel free to write on a piece of paper and place it in the box for them to check and respond.



CELEBRATING THE FEAST DAY OF
Our Lady of Guadalupe
PATRONESS OF UNBORN CHILDREN



Mass with
Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay

7:00pm Monday 12 December 2022
Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church
94 Archer Street Chatswood

*With a special blessing for
expectant mothers and those wishing
to conceive a child.*

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It's that time of year again when we reach out to our generous community to help the marginalised in our area to have a happier Christmas. We are looking for donations in the envelopes and also Christmas hamper items, food and toiletries. Please leave hamper donations in the baskets at both entry doors.

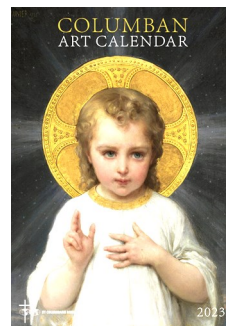


CATHOLIC CARE BROKEN BAY

Do you have a problem that you can't solve on your own?

When feelings become overwhelming or confusing, counselling can be very helpful. We work with you to overcome challenges and stress. We work with you, assisting you to face challenges and stressors, coming up with suggestions to tackle or resolve these challenges. We listen, talk through experiences and help you think about ways forward. Common issues addressed in counselling include family transitions, communication issues, work/life balance, conflict, parenting after separation, grief and loss and decision making. We offer a welcoming, inclusive environment and a safe space for all ages. CatholicCare offers Government funded, fee for service and NDIS approved therapy options for yourself, your children and as a family unit. To access this service please call 1800 324 924 or visit www.catholiccarebb.org.au.

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDAR



NOW AVAILABLE \$10 EACH

Now available at the Church Sacristy entry. Thank you for your support which has enabled Columban's to provide hope for the poorest of people where Columban's missionaries work.

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.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, may they Rest in Peace.



PARISH FUNDRAISER

Raffle tickets are available for fundraising for the parish.

\$5 per ticket: iPad, blowdryer & hampers prizes
\$50 per ticket: Calf prize

Drawn Sunday 18th December 2022.

To purchase tickets you can use the Tap'N'Go or cash.

Tickets are available from:

Lila, Robin, Rosie and Paula (parish office).

Please help support our beautiful parish.

Prizes include:

- **A Calf donated by the Monastery**
- **Apple IPAD**
- **Blow-dryer and hair care package**
- **Gift Hampers**

Thank you to all the people who donated the prizes!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES



PARISH:

Christmas EVE Saturday Vigil

Saturday 24th Dec 2022: 7pm
11.30pm (Midnight Mass)

Christmas DAY

Sunday 25th Dec 2022: 9am & 10.30am (Latin)

Feast of Holy Family

Friday 30th Dec 2022: 7pm

New Year's EVE Vigil

Saturday 31st Dec 2022: 7pm

New Year's DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God

Sunday 1st Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

Epiphany Vigil

Saturday 7th Jan 2023: 7pm

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 8th Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

Feast Baptism of the Lord

Monday 9th Jan 2023: 9.30am

MONASTERY:

Daily as usual 7am



CATECHIST NEWS

Final SRE (Scripture) dates:

Arcadia PS – Wednesday 23rd November
Galston PS & Glenorie PS – Wednesday 30th November
Hillside PS – Friday 2nd December
Middle Dural PS – Wednesday 7th December

The CCD will be holding an Advent Reflection morning and thank you morning tea for all Catechists on Thursday 1 December at The Entrance 10am-1pm OR Friday 2 December at Terrey Hills 10am-1pm.
RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

This year our Catechist Christmas dinner will be held at Rose Granata's house on Friday 2nd December. All current and past Catechists are invited to attend. Please RSVP to myself or Rose.

The next parish Children's Mass will be held next Sunday 4th December at 9am. This Mass will also recognise the children completing Year 6 this year by presenting them with a certificate and Bible. If you have a child in Year 6 who will be present at this Mass, please let me know by email.

If you are planning for next year, being a Catechist is a very rewarding ministry. We have a few Catechists retiring this year, if anyone is interested in being a Catechist or helper for next year, please contact me or talk to Fr Shansana or Paula in the parish office.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Coordinator



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.



ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.



Vox Populi - Voice of the People

ADVENT



This Sunday, 27 November marks the start of Advent. It is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and encompasses the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

It is a time of reflection, anticipation and preparation when we can direct our minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time, and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

The exact origin of the celebration is not known, although it was being practiced as early as the 5th century.

Saint Gregory of Tours wrote about his predecessor Saint Perpetuus decreeing a fast three times a week from the feast of Saint Martin (November 11) until Christmas.

It's unclear whether this was a new custom or the reinforcement of an existing custom. Either way, the custom began to spread beyond the Diocese of Tours, and soon all of France was observing three days of fasting each week between the feast of Saint Martin and Christmas. However, the practice of fasting went beyond France, and many chose to fast every day of the Advent season, not just the three days prescribed.

By the 13th century, the fast of Advent was not being as commonly practiced, and so it was reformed, shortening it to a four-week cycle.

The liturgical season of Advent (which comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming") is now spread over four Sundays, with the readings and teachings focused on the preparation for the Second Coming and the Last Judgement.

People are often fascinated by Jesus' promise to "come again". But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. The Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36).

During the season of Advent, the liturgical colour is violet which represents penance, preparation and sacrifice.

It serves as a beautiful visual reminder to the faithful, that they should carry this spirit of repentance and penance throughout the season, remembering that Christ's birth was the beginning of his earthly mission, preaching the faith and eventually dying for our salvation.

However, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday, priests wear rose-coloured vestments, just as it is during Lent, which represents the joyful reward that comes from offering sacrifice with patience.

During Advent there are four candles, one each week, followed by the white candle at Christmas:

The first one, violet or light purple, represents God's People. It is the candle of Hope.

The second, also violet, represents the Old Testament Prophets, and is the Candle of Peace.

The third represents John the Baptist, and is the Candle of Hope. This is rose-coloured. The fourth, again violet, represents Mary the Mother of Jesus, and is the Candle of Joy.

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, we who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. Amen.

Saint Andrew the Apostle

c. First Century

Feast Day: November 30



Patron Saint of Scotland, Greece, fishermen, sailors, and spinsters

A big-hearted fisherman becomes a daring Apostle of the Lord

Andrew was a fisherman from Bethsaida in Northern Israel. He lived on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, which is really a lake, where many of Jesus' miracles took place. Jesus chose mostly fishermen and small farmers to be His disciples, perhaps because in these professions a man can plan, sweat, and calculate, and still, in the end, fail. Success is not appreciated unless failure is an option. Farmers and fishermen must depend on God's providence for success. No amount of preparation can make the clouds open and the rains pour down, and no amount of careful planning will make the nets burst with fish. Farmers and fishermen are hard-working, careful, thoughtful, and yet entirely dependent on the weather and other factors outside of their control. They must work, pray and trust in God in equal measure. They must have the discipline of faith. These are the qualities that made Andrew and others such great disciples.

Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist. Andrew was at John's side when a man whom John had recently baptized walked by. "Look, here is the Lamb of God," John exclaimed ([Jn 1:36](#)). Andrew was curious and, along with a few of John's other disciples, followed the mysterious man. The next day Andrew breathlessly told his brother Simon "We have found the Messiah" ([Jn 1:41](#)) and brought him to Jesus, who renamed Simon as Peter. From that point forward, Andrew became one of Jesus' most reliable Apostles, a leader among the Twelve whose name recurs time and again in the Gospels. There are various traditions about where Andrew evangelized after the Ascension of the Lord, with most focusing on Greece, Turkey, and north of the Black Sea. There are no certain facts about his manner of death, although various apocrypha state that he was tied to an x-shaped cross and then preached from that high pulpit for days until he died.

Saint Andrew sat at the table of the Last Supper, felt the hot breath of the Holy Spirit on his cheeks at Pentecost, saw the radiant body of the risen Lord with his own eyes, and endured physical hardships as he carried a new religion into old lands. We can suppose that he, like many of the Apostles, was content with his way of life before he met the Lord. Fishing on the tranquil waters of a lake, sharing daily meals with his extended family, chatting in the evenings with old friends before a fire. The Apostles did not abandon their lives to follow Jesus because their lives were miserable. It was a question of more. More meaning. More truth. More fulfillment. More challenge. More daring. There is nothing wrong with a good life, but there is something better about a great life.

The Apostles were mostly simple, intelligent, hardworking men whose outstanding characteristics were courage and daring. Many people who could have followed the Lord did not. The rich young man went away sad for he had many possessions. Perhaps the greatest thing that young man had was his youth. Andrew and Peter and John and Simon and all the others were young too. Yet they did not go away sad. They stayed, they followed, they were challenged, and they were contented.

Andrew renounced his father, his boat, his nets, and all that was known and comfortable. He traded what was good for what was better. And for that generosity and daring we remember him today, so many centuries later. He was of that generation of pathbreakers who sowed the seeds whose harvests the Christians of today have reaped and enjoyed.

Saint Andrew, we ask your intercession as an Apostle in heaven to make all Christians more generous in responding to the Lord's invitation to follow Him. Embolden us to share the faith with our families, as you did with your brother Simon Peter, and to be outspoken in our beliefs. Amen.


Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

ROSTER AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

3/12/22 to 4/12/22

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Margaret B	CHILDREN'S MASS	Lorna B
Reader2	Miriam B	CHILDREN'S MASS	Matt M
Prayers	Mary C	CHILDREN'S MASS	Teresa G
TV		Nigel M	Teresa G
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Theresa N
Music		John T	
Music			
Morning Tea		Robin B	
 FLOWERS	NO ALTAR FLOWERS DURING ADVENT		

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: sanshanasamarsinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia



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.