# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





#### PARISH MASS TIMES Weekend:

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

Weekday: Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am (Wednesday 6th Dec Mass 9am)

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am *Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)* 

#### **MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses**

Sundays Daily

7:00am 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS RECONCILIATION FOR THE SICK MARRIAGES FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

#### 2 & 3 DECEMBER 2023

#### 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

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 - STAY AWAKE**

Sunday's Gospel Mark 13:33-37, Jesus said "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come"

How do we stay awake? We stay away by keeping in touch with those around us. By doing our best to have compassion, love and forgiveness in our hearts. By praying daily to God keeping in touch with Him.

- Am I staying awake?
- Do I keep in touch with those around me?
- Am I doing my best to have compassion for those in need?
- Do I forgive those that need forgiveness?
- Do I keep in touch with God by praying to Him daily?



PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

Help me stay awake and keep watch for those in need around me. Help me see those that need help and need my forgiveness. Amen.

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading:** *Isaiah* 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8 (*JB*) A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners;

we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

#### The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

#### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

#### 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: Mark 13:33-37 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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







"TAKE *ye* heed, WATCH and PRAY

for ve KNOW NOT when

the TIME IS...And what I say

unto you I say unto all,

Mark 13:33-37

#### YEAR B

#### GOSPEL REFLECTION 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 3 Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7 Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

#### Be watchful! Be alert!

Today we begin our Advent journey and prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas. So you'd expect today's Gospel to refer to his birth. But Jesus isn't talking about Christmas when he says, "Be watchful! Be alert! (Mark 13:33). He's urging his disciples to be vigilant as they wait for his return. We might wonder, *Why are we hearing about the* Second *Coming? Isn't Advent about Jesus'* first *coming?* Well, yes. But as St. Bernard of Clairvaux once said, we can ponder three "comings" of the Lord during Advent.

First, there's Jesus' coming as a baby in Bethlehem. So we can enter into the Jewish people's longing for the Messiah. Next there's his Second Coming in glory at the end of time. We can be watchful as we ready our hearts for Jesus' return. Finally, we can experience a third coming of Jesus—his coming into our hearts right now. In fact, this "middle" coming of Christ undergirds all that we do during this holy season.

Jesus comes to us every day. He isn't passive; he doesn't wait for us to climb some mountain to find him. He is the initiator. He actively pursues us and seeks us out. That's why he became a man; that's why he promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). And that's why he seeks to come into our lives this Advent.

Jesus comes to remind us to pause in our busy lives. He comes to inspire us to pray or read his word. He reminds us he is with us, even when we feel alone. He stirs our conscience, so that we want to turn away from sin and toward his mercy. He comes to us in a friend or stranger in need of kindness. Jesus is constantly seeking ways to come to us. And the more alert we are to his coming now, the more ready we will be when he comes again.

So be alert! The Lord who loves you is walking beside you-will you notice him?

"Jesus, help me to be aware of the ways that you come to me this Advent."

Source: Word Among Us India

#### LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

#### DECEMBER

- Monday 4 Readings: Is 2:1-5. Mt 8:5-11. R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. St John Damascene, priest, doctor
- Tuesday 5Readings: Is 11:1-10. Lk 10:21-24.<br/>R: Justice shall flourish in his time,<br/>and fullness of peace for ever.
- Wednesday 6 Readings: 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 Nicholas, bishop
- Thursday 7 Readings: Is 26:1-6. Mt 7:21, 24-27. R: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. *St Ambrose, bishop, doctor*
- Friday 8 Readings: Gen 3:9-15,20. Eph 1:3-6, 11-12. Lk 1:26-38. R: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds. The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- Saturday 9 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.

#### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2023

#### For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by GOD, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved from all stain of original sin....



	ST BENEDICT one's adversary before sundown.		
PARISH FUNDSYour 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: 	<ul> <li>PARISH NOTICES</li> <li>Mass next Wednesday 6th December is changed to 9am due to funeral for the late Luigi Bisoglio at 10.30am.</li> <li>Adoration Saturday 16th December will be from 9am to 10am.</li> <li>Draft Roster is now available on the sacristy window please check.</li> <li>Redfield College boys will be doing Community Service at our parish which we really appreciate. They will be helping move boxes into storage and</li> </ul>		
to help the growing number of people seeking assistance with everyday living in this difficult economic time. With thanks, Rita, Lila, Marie and Karen - Arcadia Conference.	go through what needs to be disposed off in preparation for the Fete. If anyone is available to guide the boys it would be greatly appreciated.		
REST IN PEACE	ST BENEDICT'S FETE 2024		
It is with sad hearts we announce the passing of: LUIGI BISOGLIO Funeral will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 At the parish Church 10.30am 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 Lucia and the Bisoglio family.	<ul> <li>The Parish fete will be held on Sunday 7th April, 2024. Please save this date in your calendars.</li> <li>Next meeting Tuesday 5th December 7.15pm at the parish. If you have been involved in previous fetes your help knowledge and experience would really be appreciated.</li> <li>If you are cleaning out your cupboards, please start putting aside donations for the fete. Only good quality items can be taken.</li> <li>For more information please contact Fr Shansana.</li> </ul>		
REST IN PEACE	REST IN PEACE		
It is with sad hearts we announce the passing of: PETER SULLIVAN Eternal Rest grant to him O Lord, And let the Perpetual light shine upon him, May he Rest in Peace. Amen	It is with sad hearts we announce the passing of: MARY HACKETT 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 the Sullivan family.	Our prayers and thoughts are with the Hackett family.		
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, Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Jenny Taylor and baby Hugo.			

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Luigi Bisoglio, Peter Sullivan & Mary Hackett. May they rest in Peace.

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#### VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

#### **DEAN FAUGHT**



Thank you Dean for cleaning our windows leaving them gleaming! We really appreciate you! God bless you in all you do for our parish.

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



#### **CRAFT GROUP**

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



#### **CCC PRAYER GROUP**

Prayer meeting held every Wednesday morning: after 9.30am Mass. Everyone welcome. Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!

## Welcome to all our families to the December Children's

Mass, especially we want to recognise the children in Year 6 who are completing their primary schooling. May God bless them as they move into their high school years!

**CATECHISTS' NEWS** 

We also recognise Marinka Marinov for 10 Years of Service as a Catechist and Glenice Lui for 5 Years of Service as a Catechist. Thank you for your time and efforts!

As the year comes to an end, I would also like to recognise those Catechists who are retiring this year -Delel Touma, Pauline Honor and Sally Souma. Thank you to these wonderful women for your commitment and dedication as Catechists! The children have truly appreciated the time that you have given them!

Final SRE dates are -

Arcadia – Combined Assembly Wed 6th December

Galston - Combined Assembly Wed 13th December

We had an enjoyable Catechist Christmas Dinner on Friday at Paula and Paul's place. It was lovely to finish the year with a Mass and a meal and time to come together to share. Thanks to Paula and Paul for hosting and to Kristy and Maricel from the CCD for coming along!

If you are interested in knowing more about being a Catechist (Scripture teacher) or helper please feel free to talk to me, or Paula in the parish office or our priests, or any parish Catechist.



God bless,

Miriam Brown (email: srearcadia@gmail.com)

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

#### THANK YOU

The Micallef family, would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, messages and phone calls.

It has been a great comfort over the last 6 weeks as Charlie has been recovering from a heart attack.

#### **PARISH E-BULLETIN**

The parish is looking to make the parish bulletin available electronically (paper copy will still be available). If you are interested in receiving the parish bulletin via email, please provide your email address to the parish office via:

arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

#### **ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP**

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.



For more details call Angela Egiziano Ph: 9653 2312.

# For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.



### SAINT OF THE WEEK

#### SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP

#### Feast Day: December 6

#### C. 270- c.346

#### December 6: Saint Nicholas, Bishop—Optional Memorial

Patron Saint of children, sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, Russia, and numerous countries and cities

*"If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."* ~<u>Matthew 19:21</u>

Saint Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, Nicholas the Wonderworker, and Saint Nick, was a fourthcentury bishop in Myra, Asia Minor, modern-day Demre, Turkey. His life is also the origin of the legend of Santa Claus. By the sixth century, his tomb had become widely venerated because of the numerous reported miracles worked through his intercession. In the eleventh century, his body was transferred to Bari, Italy, where it remains today. To this day, his bodily remains excrete a liquid, at first thought to be an oil but now believed to be water, which is collected, mixed with holy water, and distributed to the faithful in bottles every May 9, the day his remains arrived in Bari. The liquid is commonly referred to as the "Manna of Saint Nicholas" and is believed to contain miraculous healing power. For this reason, along with the mythical character of Santa Claus, he remains a highly venerated saint within the Church.

Very little is known about Saint Nicholas that is historically verifiable. What we do know is that he was the Bishop of Myra, most likely suffered imprisonment during the persecution of Roman Emperor Diocletian, and was one of the bishops who attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. In addition to these historical details, many later legends have developed about his life.

Nicholas was born into an affluent and devout Christian family. When Nicholas was young, his parents died from an epidemic, leaving him an orphan and heir to his family wealth. Conscious of the exhortation Jesus gave to the rich young man to "sell what you have and give to the poor," Nicholas did exactly that. He sold his inheritance and distributed it to those in need. Some accounts of his life state that his uncle instead was the Bishop of Myra and that he ordained Nicholas a priest.

One popular legend is that among the recipients of his wealth were three girls whose father could not afford dowries for them to be married. Their future options were grim and included the possibility of their resorting to prostitution to survive. When Nicholas found out about this dire situation, he threw a bag of gold through the window of their home that the father used as a dowry for his first daughter. Nicholas then did this a second time. After the second daughter was married, the father stayed up all night waiting for a third bag of money. When Nicholas threw the third bag through the window, the father ran out and thanked him. Nicholas asked him not to tell anyone. One version of the story states that each night, the bag of gold landed in stockings hung by the fire to dry, leading to the Christmas tradition of placing stockings out for Saint Nick, who secretly fills them.

In another popular story, Nicholas was traveling to the Holy Land by ship. A storm suddenly arose, and the crew were fearful for their lives. Nicholas prayed, and the storm ceased. For this reason, Saint Nicholas is patron saint of sailors and those taking sea voyages.

How Nicholas became a bishop is a mystery. One version of the story is that shortly after Father Nicholas' return from the Holy Land, the bishop of Myra died. The clergy of Myra then gathered to pick a successor. During their meeting, God inspired them to pick the first person to enter their church the following morning. Because Father Nicholas had spent the entire night in prayer, he was the first person in the church and was chosen bishop.

During his time as Bishop of Myra, a great persecution broke out in the Roman Empire under Emperor Diocletian. In 303, Diocletian, Maximian, Galerius, and Constantius—who made up a tetrarchy that governed the whole Roman Empire—issued a series of edicts outlawing Christianity and imposing the penalties of torture and death on those who practiced the faith. This was the last and the most violent persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. At some point, between the years of 303 and 306, Bishop Nicholas was among those arrested and tortured. In 305, Diocletian renounced the throne, and in 306, Caesar Constantius died. Constantius' son, Constantine, then became Caesar in his place and ordered Bishop Nicholas' release. In 312, Constantine is said to have seen a vision of the Cross with the words, "In this sign, you will conquer." In 313, he and his co-emperor Licinius issued the Edict of Milan, granting religious tolerance to Christians.

An early list of the bishops who attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 includes Bishop Nicholas. That council was called to address the heresy of Arianism that denied the full divinity of Christ, *(continue over...)* 

#### (continued from previous page...)

asserting that the Son was a created being and not co-eternal with the Father. Some legends relate that Bishop Nicholas was so appalled by the Arians at the council that he slapped one of them across the face, was imprisoned for that act, but was released by Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Other accounts state that the heretic he slapped was Arius himself. The slap is a common motif in sacred art, including Orthodox iconography.

Other legends abound about Saint Nicholas. He is said to have won the release of various individuals unjustly condemned to death, going so far as to stay the sword of the executioner. During a famine, an evil butcher killed three children and pickled their remains to sell them as ham. Bishop Nicholas intervened and raised the pickled children from the dead. While shocking to the modern hearer, the story was widely told in the Middle Ages. An image of that miracle is found in sacred art and is one of the reasons many came to consider Saint Nicholas as the patron saint of children. Still another story relates that during another famine, a ship full of wheat for the emperor arrived in Myra. Bishop Nicholas convinced the sailors to give him enough to feed the people for two years, promising them that the emperor would still receive all his wheat. When the trusting sailors delivered the rest of the wheat to the emperor, it weighed the same as when it was loaded, despite much of it having been given to the people of Myra.

Bishop Nicholas died on or around December 6, 346 (the year of death varies by source), and was canonized by popular acclaim. His feast day became a day when the faithful performed charitable works, especially toward children, a custom that continues today. In 1054, the Catholic Church split between the East and West, resulting in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. This left the remains of Saint Nicholas in the hands of the Orthodox. In 1071, the Seljuk Turks captured Orthodox-controlled Myra. In 1087, fearful that the Turks would mistreat the relics of their revered saint, Catholic Italian sailors from Bari took part of Saint Nicholas's remains from his Myra tomb and brought them to Bari, Italy, where the pope later had a church built in the saint's honor.

Though most of what we know about Saint Nicholas' life is legendary rather than historically certain, those legends have added much to the faith of the people of God throughout the centuries. These tales have inspired faith and hope and have led to numerous reported miracles.

As we honor this saintly bishop from 1,700 years ago, ponder the faith of the people of God throughout those centuries who have benefitted from the sacred art, pilgrimages to his tomb, and the miraculous Manna of Saint Nicholas. Allow the longtime devotion to him to inspire you, entrusting yourself more fully to his intercession, as well as the intercession of all the saints of Heaven.

Saint Nicholas, through your intercession, God has touched many lives. The legends of your life have inspired faith throughout the centuries, just as your priestly and episcopal ministry impacted the people of your day. Please pray for me, that I will become a true saint and fulfill the mission God has given to me. Saint Nicholas of Myra, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.





#### THANK YOU

A big thank you to the JUTRISA family for donating a beautiful Processional Cross.

God bless you for your kindness and generosity!

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO KEITH WALLACE!**

Keith Wallace Nursery is a finalist for the NGINA Best Small Production Nursery Award! Specialising in a diverse range of indoor plants and orchis, they're a gem in Sydney's Hills District. With 90% of their palnts grown in-house and a 66-year legacy in Cymbidium orchid hybridizing, their dedication to horticulture is unmatched. Congratulations to Keith, Gordon and the team!

#### DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, Puzzles (with all pieces) etc. as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc. Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

Sr Mary boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse she reports it.

Cathy Holling 0403 062 255

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

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

9/12/23 to 10/12/23

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

#### DRAFT ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE SACRISTY WINDOW

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Peter G	Fogarty family
Reader2	Margaret B	Kath M	Volunteer needed
Prayers	Maria G	Ann L	Matt W
TV		Teresa G	Mary A
Music		Melanie H	Karina S
Music		Helen F	Noelle T
Music		Nigel M	John T
Music		Keith W	
Morning Tea		Mary A	
FLOWERS	NO FLOWERS THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF ADVENT.		



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