

# St Benedict's Parish

## Arcadia



*I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe. (John 10:9)*

### 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

#### Saturdays

9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession

### MONASTERY CHAPEL MASS TIMES

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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### YEAR A

APRIL 25 & 26 2026

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,  
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,  
so that the humble flock may reach  
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

#### SELF REFLECTION: GOOD SHEPHERD

##### Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10

In this Gospel, I am reminded that Jesus is my Good Shepherd who knows me and calls me by name. He invites me to listen for His voice and follow where He leads. When I stay close to Him, I find peace, direction, and fullness of life. Even when I wander, He continues to guide me and lead me back.

##### I reflect...

1. Do I recognise Jesus' voice in my daily life?
2. What distracts me from following Him?
3. Do I trust Jesus to lead me and guide me?
4. How is Jesus inviting me to deeper life right now?
5. Am I helping others hear the voice of the Good Shepherd?

## Follow Christ

#### Prayer

**Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
Help me to recognise Your voice and  
follow where You lead.  
Guard my heart from distractions and  
draw me into the fullness of life You promise.  
Guide me, protect me, and keep me close to You.  
Amen.**

**First Reading Acts 2:14, 36-41 (JB)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25 (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;**

**I know my sheep, and mine know me.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL John 10:1-10 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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



## READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

**Acts 2:14, 36-41 / 1 Peter 2:20-25 / John 10:1-10**

In **Acts**, Peter speaks with courage after the resurrection, proclaiming that Jesus, whom they crucified, is now Lord and Messiah. His words pierce the hearts of the listeners, and they respond by asking what they must do. Peter calls them to repentance and baptism, a turning back to God that leads to forgiveness and new life.

In **1 Peter**, we are reminded that Christ suffered for us, not in retaliation or bitterness, but as the innocent Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. We are invited to walk in His footsteps, trusting Him even in suffering. In the **Gospel** of John, Jesus reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep personally, calls them by name, and leads them safely to life in abundance. He contrasts His voice with those who mislead and scatter, showing that true life is found only in Him.

Together, these readings form a clear journey of faith: we are called to hear the voice of Christ, to respond with repentance and trust, and to follow Him even when the path involves challenge or sacrifice. Jesus is not only the One we believe in, but the One we follow daily as He leads us toward fullness of life.

### Key Thought

The Good Shepherd calls me by name and invites me to turn to Him and follow the path that leads to life.

### Take-Home Challenge

This week, spend a few quiet minutes each day listening for the voice of Jesus in prayer, Scripture, or acts of kindness, and choose one way to follow Him more closely.

### Prayer

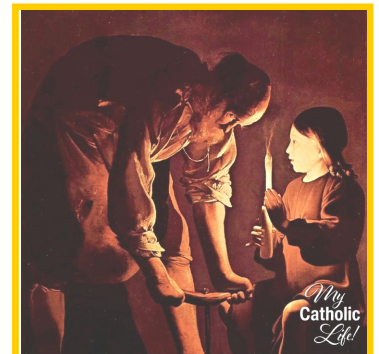
Lord Jesus,

You call me by name and lead me to life. Help me to listen to Your voice, turn my heart toward You, and follow where You lead. Amen.

Source: chatgpt

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

- Monday 27 Readings: Acts 11:1-18 + Jn 10:11-18.  
**R:** My soul is thirsting for the living God.  
**St Louis Grignion de Montfort, priest.**
- Tuesday 28 Readings: Acts 11:19-26 + Jn 10:22-30.  
**R:** All you nations, praise the Lord.  
**St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr.**
- Wednesday 29 Readings: Acts 12:24—13:5a + Jn 12:44-50.  
**R:** O God, let all the nations praise you!  
**St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor.**
- Thursday 30 Readings: Acts 13:13-25 + Jn 13:16-20.  
**R:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.  
**St Pius V, pope.**
- MAY**
- Friday 1 Readings: Acts 13:26-33 + Jn 14:1-6 .  
**R:** You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.  
**St Joseph the Worker.**
- Saturday 2 Readings: Acts 13:44-52 + Jn 14:7-14.  
**R:** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.  
**St Athanasius, bishop, doctor.**



St Joseph,  
faithful protector,  
pray for us and guide us  
to trust in God and follow  
His will.

Source: Ordo 2026



### POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2026

**That everyone might have food**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL CARE COURSE

Volunteer Catholic Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion visit hospitals throughout the Diocese of Broken Bay providing comfort and care to Catholic patients.

Our Diocese and NSW Health require that 40 hours of training is completed to perform this important role. The *Introduction to Pastoral Care Course* (IPCC) meets this requirement, is **FREE** and is open to those who already volunteer in a hospital context, or in local health and aged care facilities, and to those who might be deciding if they are suited to this ministry.

As well as being prepared by your Parish to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, some of the key qualities we are looking for in anyone who may be considering being part of this hospital ministry are:

- A genuine prayerful faith life including reverence for and regular participation in Sunday Eucharist
- An ability to listen and a willingness to refer on when necessary
- A warm, friendly, empathetic disposition
- The ability to relate to people of different ages, personalities and backgrounds
- A respect for others and their diversity
- The ability to work as part of a team
- Enthusiasm, motivation and professionalism
- A compassionate heart
- Please note that this role is not suitable for those seeking to proselytise (evangelise).

The course will be offered on five consecutive **Wednesdays:**

**April 29, May 6, 13, 20 and 27**

**between 9:00am and 3:00 pm**

at the Ambrose Centre, 12 Ashton Ave, The Entrance (behind Our Lady of the Rosary Church).

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Please speak to your Parish Priest for more information about the course and how to apply, or contact **Denis O'Brien, CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay, on 0439 009 932.**

## VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination:

### PIETY SHOP STALL HOLDER

This week we are not using names, but we would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to one of our dedicated volunteers who always wishes not to be named and to all those who faithfully assist her each week.

Together, they do an amazing job behind the scenes and in service to our parish community. Their commitment, generosity, and quiet dedication make a real difference every week.

May God bless them abundantly for their service and reward them with His grace and peace.

## PIETY SHOP NEWS

### Visit the Piety Shop!

With **Mother's Day** approaching, the Piety Shop now has a lovely selection of Mother's Day items available—thoughtful gifts to show appreciation and love for all mothers and grandmothers.

We also have a new range of religious and practical items in store, including seat belt covers, pill boxes for daily tablets, thermal cups, brain game books, and much more.

We warmly invite you to visit the Piety Shop and have a look at what's new. We look forward to seeing you there!

### CHILDREN'S MASS

**NEXT WEEKEND**

**SUNDAY 3RD MAY 10.30AM**

**Followed by morning tea for everyone!**

### HEALING MASS

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

**NEXT HEALING MASS:  
THURSDAY 7TH OF MAY 2026**



## 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:**

*Miriam Brown, Pauline Honor, Kath Moran, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.*

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

*Paul Cascun, Nanna Trani, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappallardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella ~ May they rest in Peace.*



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

**OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM** will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in October 2026.

**Please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list for the next program as we are taking names now.**

*In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is: Confirmation, Reconciliation, then Eucharist. Children are usually prepared for these Sacraments in Year 3 and 4.*

## HELP NEEDED

**We need young men to help put up the banners for the fete please. Can you please let Tania know on 0401 597 278.**

## CARITAS AUSTRALIA LEBANON EMERGENCY APPEAL

Lebanon is facing one of its most severe humanitarian crises in years, as a sudden surge in violence and mass evacuation orders force families to flee with nothing.

Within 24 hours, Caritas Lebanon reported 667,831 newly displaced people seeking safety.

Despite the volatile environment, Caritas Lebanon teams are operating across seven governorates, delivering food, essential items, healthcare, psychosocial support, water and hygiene assistance, and protection services. Let us stand in solidarity with our partners in Lebanon. Learn more or make a donation today at [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)

### Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal

Over 780,000 people are displaced due to conflict. Your support can help provide essential support.

**DONATE NOW**  
[caritas.org.au/Lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/Lebanon)



Photo: Caritas Lebanon

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Term 2 has commenced this week. We pray that all our catechists have a smooth and blessed transition back into the classroom as they continue the important work of sharing our Catholic faith with the children.

For parishioners who may be considering becoming a catechist, a new training course will commence on 30 April. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your faith and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people.

**We urgently need a catechist at Hillside Public school on Friday mornings from 8.45am - 9.45am to teach two year 1 students.**

God bless,  
Martina Jutrisa  
[srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator  
0413 403 767



## SEASONS FOR GROWTH ADULT COMPANIONS

A warm invitation is extended to all trained Companions in the *Seasons for Growth* Adult program who may feel called and be willing to collaborate with Mission Broken Bay in offering a gentle and hope-filled opportunity for those across our deaneries who are carrying the weight of bereavement and loss.

In the life of the Church, we are reminded that no one should walk the path of grief alone. It is through this initiative we seek to accompany and walk beside those who mourn with compassion, understanding, and the quiet assurance of Christ's presence.

It is in this spirit, we invite you to prayerfully consider whether you might like to share your gifts in this special way. If you are a trained Companion and feel called to participate in this ministry, we warmly invite you to express your interest to Libby, in Mission Broken Bay: [mission@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:mission@bbcatholic.org.au)

## ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

**Join the fun! Ages 8-12 years**  
Our Kids Youth Group is back on **Fridays**  
**DURING SCHOOL TERM**  
**4.00pm to 5.30pm**

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**  
Everyone welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.



## CCC PRAYER GROUP



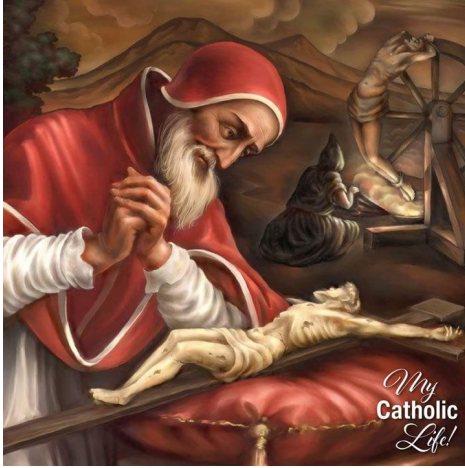
Prayer meeting held every  
**Wednesday morning:**  
after 9.30am Mass.  
*Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!*

For more details call  
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

## CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**Saint Pius V, Pope**

**C. 1504-1572**

**Feast Day: April 30**

**Patron Saint of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Invoked for the reform and defense of the Church  
Canonized by Pope Clement XI on May 22, 1712**

Antonio Ghislieri was born in Bosco Marengo in northwest Italy. As a child, he worked to help support his family. At age fourteen, he joined the Dominicans, taking the name Michele, and received his education from the friars in Vigevano, Bologna, and Genoa. An excellent and hardworking student, he was drawn to study Sacred Scripture and Saint Thomas Aquinas' teachings. At age twenty-four, he was ordained a priest. For sixteen years, he taught theology and philosophy, formed Dominican novices, and served various friaries as prior. Father Michele deepened his prayer life, developed a strong devotion to Mary and the Rosary, made all-night vigils, embraced the Dominican charism, fasted, did penance, embraced poverty, and refused to engage in idle talk.

At the time, the Protestant Reformation divided European kingdoms, and the Church desperately needed reform to address financial abuses, nepotism, poorly formed clergy, poorly structured governance, theological debates, and lack of uniform liturgical worship. To address errors introduced by the Protestant Reformation, Pope Paul III reorganized the Italian Inquisition in 1542. Father Michele served on several inquisitorial missions, was made a bishop, and then a cardinal. In various Italian dioceses, he vigorously defended the true faith, weeded out heresy, corrected abuses, tightened Church structures, and lived out the life of faith and morals to which he was called.

When Pope Paul IV announced to his court that he wanted to make his fourteen-year-old nephew a cardinal, Bishop Michele firmly and successfully opposed him. Many of the cardinals admired him as a result, and in 1566, Bishop Michele was elected as the new pope, taking the name Pius V.

Just prior to Pius V's election, the Council of Trent completed its final session, launching the Catholic Counter-Reformation that addressed theological and liturgical issues and sought to eliminate Church abuses. Pope Pius V was the man to implement the council's decrees.

Pope Pius V continued to be a man of God. He acted not like royalty, but as a servant, wearing his one white Dominican habit (which is why the pope wears white today). Money for extravagant papal banquets was distributed to the poor. He visited the sick, built hospitals, and prayed twice daily before the Blessed Sacrament. The Papal States soon became more like a monastery than a kingdom.

Pius V reformed the clergy by mandating a seminary system, reaffirming celibacy, promulgating a new catechism for parish priests, attaching the clergy to one diocese, and exhorting bishops to remain in and serve their dioceses as true shepherds. He renewed discipline within religious houses and spoke out against immoralities within the clergy. He instituted catechetical classes for youth and introduced Saint Thomas Aquinas' teachings in the universities. He spread devotion to the Rosary and promulgated a new Breviary and Roman Missal. He chastised, and even penalized, wayward rulers and defended Europe from Muslim invaders by helping form the Holy League, a cooperative effort of Catholic kingdoms within Spain and Italy, that included the Order of Malta.

***Saint Pius V, you were unwavering in your faith and courage. God used those virtues to defend and reform His Church when it was suffering greatly. Please pray that as the Church continues to be in need of renewal and the Gospel in need of proclamation, I will be a holy instrument in the hands of God. May I be courageous and faithful until the end, no matter the cost. Saint Pius V, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.***

**St Benedict's  
Country Fete**

**Sunday 31 May 2026**

**2 FAGANS ROAD ARCADIA PH: 9653 2312**

**10am to 3pm**

**Fruit & Veggie Stall • Chocolate Wheel • Raffle  
Dev Tea • BBQ • Gifts • Coffee • Cakes • Lolly Stall  
Hot Dogs • Pop Corn • Gelato • Face Painting  
Flowers • Crafts • Plants • Rides & lots more...**

**PARISH FETE – LET'S BEGIN THE EXCITEMENT!  
COUNTDOWN: 5 WEEKENDS TO GO!**

The excitement is building for our upcoming Parish Fete! Only **5 weekends to go**, so now is the time to get involved, spread the word, and help make this year's fete a wonderful success for our parish community.

Please collect your **raffle tickets from the church entrances**. Don't forget that **cow tickets are available separately** as well.

We kindly ask everyone to **share the new date with family and friends** and invite them to join us on this special parish day.

We are still in need of:

- Brand new items for the **Chocolate Wheel**
- Lollies for the **lolly stand**
- More **craft items**
- **Cakes baked on the day of the fete** for our stalls

Your generosity in donating items is greatly appreciated!

We also need **volunteers** to help on the day. Even a little time makes a big difference—please consider helping to **relieve stall holders so they can have a short break** during the day.

Thank you for your support, generosity, and parish spirit. Let's make this fete a joyful and successful celebration for everyone!



**For any information please contact Tania on 0401 597 278**

# Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

2/5/26 TO 3/5/26 (children's Mass)

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
<b>Acolyte</b>		Paul C	Paul E
<b>Reader1</b>	John V	Mary C	Volunteer
<b>Reader2</b>	Natasha S	Gabrielle W	Fogarty Family
<b>Prayers</b>	Sr Carol T	Sharon O	Azzi Family
<b>TV</b>		Trey O	Jutrisa Family
<b>EMHC</b>		Ann L	Sandra M
<b>EMHC</b>		Nigel M	Bernadette W
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Noelle T	Martina J
<b>Music</b>		John T	Keith W
<b>Music</b>			
<b>Morning Tea</b>		<b>Teresa G</b>	<b>Paula E</b>
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<i>Mona M</i>		

## 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.*

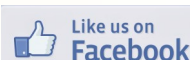
*Above all we give thanks to **God our Father**, who blesses this land, its people, and all creation. May we live in harmony, justice, and peace, guided by His love.*

## 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.*

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays & Fridays:** 9.00am to 2.00pm  
**Parish Office:** 02 9653 2312  
**Address:** 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159  
**Email:** [arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com)  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233  
**Facebook:** [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)



## MONASTERY CHAPEL

### Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

**5.45am** Office of Readings  
**6.30am** Morning prayer - Lauds  
**12.45pm** Midday prayer  
**6.00pm** Evening prayer - Vespers  
**8.00pm** Night prayer - Compline

## LONELY? YOU'RE NOT ALONE COME AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Join our parish volunteers and get involved in a meaningful way:

- Choir / music ministry
- Readers at Mass
- Morning tea after Mass
- Working bee & maintenance help
- Parish office support
- Fete team
- Prayer group
- Makers Table & craft group
- Sacramental team support
- Scripture teaching (training provided)
- Piety shop
- Youth group

You'll make a real difference in the parish and find a welcoming community of friendship and faith.

Contact Paula at the parish office:  
9653 2312

## DID YOU KNOW...

St Joseph is never recorded speaking a single word in the Gospels, yet he is honoured as a great model of faith, obedience, and quiet trust in God.

**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.

