# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





### PARISH MASS TIMES

### Weekends:

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

### Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

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

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am 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





### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### YEAR B

20 & 21 APRIL 2024

### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

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: CHOOSE WISELY

Sundays' Gospel, John 10:11-18, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them."

We know leaders who want influence or money, who value their own reputation and life above that of their followers, and who can be bought. Such leaders are a sad mistake, and we live to regret giving them power.

- Am I like the Good Shepherd or the hired hand?
- Who have been a hired hand in my life?
- Have I had a 'shepherd' in life look after me?
- Do lead others to green pastures?
- Have I worked out what is good for me and others in life?

### Lord,

You are a fearless leader. Death has no terrors for you. You value the life of your followers above your own. You are not in it for the money, but you know me and love me. Help me rise above the selfcenteredness that confines and narrows me, to the outgoing love which expands my heart and mind, as my heart and mind grows to be like the heart and mind of Jesus. Amen.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**First Reading:** Acts 4:8-12 (JB) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit

YEAR B

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm: R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2 (JB) A reading from the first letter of St John We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

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 10:11-18 (JB) A reading from the holy Gospel according to John The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

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





Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2024

#### GOSPEL REFLECTION Sunday, April 21 Acts 4:8-12 Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18

### A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

This familiar passage about the good shepherd calls to mind soothing images from children's books that portray Jesus as a gentle shepherd carrying a lamb on his shoulders. But Jesus paints a much more powerful picture. His good shepherd is a protector; he watches over and guards his sheep. He doesn't sit by passively when predators approach; he acts swiftly to keep his flock safe. He doesn't flee or abandon them; he stands his ground and defends them (John 10:12). He even "lays down his life for the sheep" (10:11).

We know, of course, that Jesus is talking about himself. He is a shepherd unlike the "shepherds" of Israel. In the previous chapter of John's Gospel, the Jewish leaders responded to Jesus' miraculous healing by casting out the formerly blind man from the synagogue (9:34). He offered healing and revelation to God's people, yet these shepherds both rejected him themselves *and* prevented their "sheep" from receiving the abundant life that he came to give them (10:10). In contrast, Jesus sought out the healed man, comforted him, and led him to faith (10:35-38). This is what a good shepherd does.

Jesus is not just "the" good shepherd; he is *your* good shepherd! Unlike a hired hand who works only for pay, Jesus is moved by a deep love for you. His love is so fierce that he freely, gladly offered his life on the cross for his sheep. For us. For *you*.

Today, rejoice that your Good Shepherd is guarding and protecting you. He is leading you securely you along the perilous paths of life. He is defending you against the wolves and thieves that seek to "steal and slaughter and destroy" you (John 10:10). He is giving you new life that he won by laying down his life and taking it up again in his resurrection (10:18). He will never forsake you.

"Thank you, Jesus, for being my strong, good shepherd!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK						
<b>APRIL</b> Monday 22	Readings: Acts 11:1-18. Jn 10:1-10. R: My soul is thirsting for the living God.	ST. MARK.				
Tuesday 23	Readings: Acts 11:19-26. Jn 10:22-30. R: All you nations, praise the Lord. <i>St George, Martyr. St Adalbert, bishop.</i>	THE EVANGELIST April 25th				
Wednesday 24	Readings: Acts 12:24-13:5. Jn 12:44-50. R: O God, let all the nations praise you! <i>St Fidelis of Simaringen, priest, martyr.</i>	St Mark the Evangelist April 25				
Thursday 25	Readings: Wis 3:1-9 or Is 9:1-6. 1 Cor 1:18-25 or Eph 2:13-18. Jn 12:23-28 or Jn 14:23-29. R: I walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. <i>ANZAC DAY</i>	Dear Lord, Help me to follow in the footsteps of St. Mark and to fall in love with You completely, desiring only Your will in my life. Help me to				
Friday 26	Readings: 1 Pet 5:5-14. Mk 16:15-20 R: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. <i>St Mark, evangelist</i>	hear your voice and to be guided by the Holy Spirit to do all that You ask of me. Amen				
Saturday 27	Readings: Acts 13:44-52. Jn 14:7-14. R: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God <i>St Louis Grignion de Montfort, priest</i>	Source: Ordo 2024				



### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2024

### For the role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

### **OFFICE CLOSED SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY 19TH OF APRIL RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 29TH APRIL.

FOR ANYTHING URGENT PLEASE CONTACT FATHER SHANSANA ON 0437 884 233.

### **ANZAC DAY**

Mass for ANZAC Day will be held on

**Thursday 25th April** 

7am Monastery.

9.30am at the Parish.



AN ANZAC PRAYER: Remember, O Lord, all those the brave and the true, who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. In that place of light from which sorrow and mourning are far banished, give them rest, O Lord, thou lover of men. Amen.

### MASS WITH BISHOP ANTHONY ON ANZAC DAY

Bishop Anthony will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral at 10.30am on ANZAC Day, Thursday 25 April, and extends a very warm invitation to clergy and the People of God in Broken Bay.

### ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE EXTRA THANK YOU!

Further to last week's bulletin, we also would like to thank the people who are not called to be organisers or heavy lifters etc. Nonetheless, brought along donations for the Trash and Treasure; or bought raffle tickets; and faithfully ploughed around in the mud on the day, spending their money at the stalls!

God bless you all! This definitely couldn't have happened without you all!

### MESSAGE FROM THE CAKE STALL

A big thank you to all who contributed to our cake stall. It was heart warming to se all who brought their goods on the day young and old. A special thanks to Amal Shaheen and family, Mary Macri who helped man the stall. Courtney Abood (Lyla's granddaughter) also helped us and brought a beautiful framed photo of Lyla and our team from a few years ago. Thanks so much again to all and especially those that purchased goods as well. It all helped us make \$2642.15 on the day.

God bless you all!

Bernadette Watt



### 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 Helen Facione, Matthew Eddington (Angela Scotti's nephew), Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, May they rest in Peace.

### **VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!**



volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

### Gabe Wall & Julie Ozolins

Thank you for starting the youth group as God knows we have been waiting for this for so long! Also thank you for helping out in other ways in our parish: Gabe

### ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!



We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-12yr olds** will be held **every Friday during school days only.** 

START DATE:Friday 3rd of May 2024TIME:4pm to 5.30pm

To register your child please email the parish office: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com with your child's name, age and parent's phone number.

**Volunteers aged 14-16yrs** who would like to assist us please email the parish office. Our youth leaders all have Working With Children Checks.



### CRAFT GROUP

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

### **ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP**

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.



For more details call Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

### D

### CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every Wednesday morning: after 9.30am Mass. Everyone welcome. Come and meet new people and have a cuppa! For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

### **CATECHISTS' NEWS**

Term 1 finished last week. Wishing all families and Catechists an enjoyable and safe holiday break. Term 2 will commence the week of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April with SRE (Scripture) classes resuming the first week.

Free ongoing training for Catechists with full Authorisation during the school holidays – Teaching Discipleship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 6:30pm-8:30pm via Zoom or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 12:30pm at Pennant Hills.

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

God bless, Miriam Brown <u>srearcadia@gmail.com</u>



### **ENCOUNTER - YOUNG ADULT EVENT**

Join us for an unforgettable evening of spiritual growth and community at Encounter, our upcoming young adult event! On Friday, April 19, starting at 6PM, we'll begin with Holy Hour and Reconciliation, followed by a delicious dinner and a special guest speaker, Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

This is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your faith, connect with other young adults, and be inspired by Bishop Randazzo's insights. To secure your spot, please RSVP by April 15.

Don't miss out on this enriching experience! RSVP by contacting the Vocations Office at 0418 522 449 or 02 83791626, or email us at

vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au.

### PARISH E-BULLETIN

The parish is looking to make the parish bulletin available electronically. The print version will still remain.

If you are interested in receiving the parish bulletin via email, plese provide your email address to the parish office via:

### arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Please note, the bulletin is always available every week on the parish website as well as Facebook.

### **IGNITE YOUR SPIRIT WEEKEND**

### 19 – 21 April

The Grail in Australia is organising the Ignite Your Spirit weekend at Jamberoo Abbey for young adults aged 18 to mid-30s.

It offers a wonderful opportunity for youth leaders and other young adults to reconnect with their purpose, meet like-minded people and experience a strong sense of connection, peace and joy.

<u>Flyer</u>



### SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint George, Martyr Feast Day: April 23

Died c. 303

### Patron Saint of agricultural workers, soldiers, archers, equestrians, chivalry, peacekeeping missions, sheep, shepherds, scouting, England and many other countries, cities, and dioceses

In the fourteenth century, Saint George became known as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers whose intercession was readily sought, especially during the Black Death, a European plague that took the lives of countless millions. Though the details of his life have been lost to history, his influence has been great and his legends have been prayerfully pondered far and wide. Unquestionably, he is one of the most venerated saints in history.

According to the eleventh-century Greek monk Symeon of Metaphrastes, Saint George was born to noble Christian parents in Cappadocia, modern-day Turkey. When his father died, George and his mother moved to Lydda, Palestine, located near modern-day Tel Aviv, Israel, where his mother had been born and where she inherited a large estate. George eventually joined the army of the Roman Emperor Diocletian and advanced to the rank of colonel.

Around the year 299, Diocletian participated in a pagan Roman religious ceremony in which he sought to predict the future. When it failed, Diocletian believed that Christians were to blame, so he began a process of purifying the empire by forcing his subjects to honor the Roman gods. In 303, Diocletian issued an edict with the aim of eradicating Christians across the empire. Churches were to be destroyed, Scripture burned, public worship forbidden, and Christians, especially those in the military, were forced to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods. Those who refused faced imprisonment or death.

When George heard about this edict, he seized a copy and tore it up and then personally confronted the emperor and chastised him for his cruelty. George went on to profess to the emperor that he was a Christian. He was immediately arrested and jailed, and the emperor attempted to convert him back to the pagan Roman gods. George refused. As a result, he endured one torture after another. One legend says he first had heavy blocks of stone placed upon his chest. Then he was tied to a wheel that, when spun, sliced his flesh with knives. He miraculously endured it all. The emperor then tried to entice George with promises of favors if he returned to the Roman gods. To this, the legend goes on, George responded to his jailer, "I despise your promises and do not fear your threats. The emperor's power is of short duration, and his reign will soon end. It is better for you, to acknowledge the true God and to seek His kingdom." The next day, George was led through the city and then beheaded. His witness was so powerful that many Roman pagans are said to have converted. One account even states that Empress Alexandra of Rome, possibly Diocletian's wife, also converted and died a martyr as a result.

Saint George is the patron saint of soldiers in part because he was in the military. However, devotion to him exploded during the first Crusade when, in 1098, during the Battle of Antioch, a priest had a vision of Saint George telling him where to find the spear that pierced Christ's Heart on the Cross. Once the Crusaders discovered the spear, they were encouraged and were led into battle with another priest leading the way with the spear. During the battle, the Crusaders were said to have had visions of three saint martyrs riding with them into battle: Saint George, Saint Mercurius, and Saint Demetrius.

Saint George's popularity in England began when King Richard the Lionheart visited a church dedicated to Saint George on his way to help with the first Crusade. It is believed that he and his men had a vision of the saint, which encouraged them in their battle. About 250 years later, King Edward III named Saint George as the patron saint of England, referring to him as "the most invincible athlete of Christ, whose name and protection the English nation invoke as that of their patron, especially in war."

One legend about Saint George has left him with the nickname "Saint George the Dragonslayer." The *Golden Legend* relates that a fierce dragon lived in the province of Libya, in the town of Silene. The villagers used to feed it two sheep every day, but when the sheep failed to suffice, they selected one villager each day, along with a sheep. One day, the lot fell on the king's own daughter, and, as she went out to give herself to the dragon, Saint George rode in on horseback, slew the dragon, and converted the entire town to the Catholic faith, with about 15,000 men receiving baptism.

Though the story is clearly fictional, it has provided inspiration for generations, especially to soldiers in war. Some have interpreted the dragon in the story as the devil and have seen Saint George's slaying of the dragon as an indication of the power of his intercession. The legend, then, can be seen as a parable, meant to encourage Saint George's intercession when confronting the worst of evils.

As we honor Saint George, as so many others have done throughout history, don't hesitate to call upon his intercession. If you struggle with any "dragon" in your life—any evil, or suffering that seems unbearable—then especially turn to this greatly venerated saint, and trust that he will intercede for you, just as he has throughout history.

### PRAY FOR THE BONDI VICTIMS

Dear Lord,

we humbly approach You, bringing before You the people of Sydney, Australia, who have been impacted by the recent stabbing incident in Bondi. We earnestly seek Your divine protection and safety for the residents of this nation. Lord, we beseech You to grant comfort and fortitude to the families grieving the loss of their loved ones in this tragic event. May Your incomprehensible peace envelop them during this trying period.

In Your Scriptures, You assure us of being a refuge and stronghold for those who place their trust in You. We cling to Your promises of safeguarding and shelter over the people of Sydney. We implore You to intervene and bring healing to those who have been physically and emotionally wounded. Lord, we lift up the authorities and law enforcement as they conduct their investigations, asking for Your guidance and discernment to be upon them.

We also extend our prayers for the perpetrator of this heinous act, Lord. We pray for a spirit of unity and peace to prevail in Sydney and across Australia.

Lord, we place our trust in Your sovereignty, believing in Your ability to bring forth good even from the most tragic circumstances. We pray that amidst this darkness, hearts would turn to You, and Your light would shine brightly.

Amen.





### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

### SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

### **Pray for Vocations!**

As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. During this week, please encourage the young people in your life—children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.

#### **Everyone Has a Divine Vocation**

"Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit." ~Homily by Pope Saint John Paul II

### Teach Your Children to Use GPS

After Mass today, have a conversation with your children, asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" After a few moments of discussion, ask, "Who do you think God wants you to be when you grow up?" Emphasize to your children that God has a specific plan in mind for them, and that following God's plan is the surest way to happiness. Every life decision—which college to attend, whom to date, which job to pursue, whether to enter seminary, whom to marry—should be undertaken only after praying for God's guidance. In other words, encourage kids to navigate life using GPS—God's Positioning System.

### Parish Roster PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

### **NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER**

### 27/4/2024 TO 28/4/2024 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B

	Saturday 7.00pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am				
Acolyte		Nigel M					
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Matt W	Martina J				
Reader2	Maria G	Gabrielle W	Mirko J				
Prayers	Kathryn S	Lorraine D	Adam J				
тν		Sebastian W	Adam J				
Music		Melanie H	Karina S				
Music		Keith W	John T				
Music		Theresa N	Noelle T				
Music		Pauline H					
Morning Tea		Sophie/Andrea					
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Mona M						



Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!

If anyone would like to join our parish roster

please contact the parish office.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing

### **BROTHER MARIO**

a very happy birthday!



Sending heartfelt birthday wishes to our beloved Brother Mario. May your life be a testament to the goodness and grace of the Lord. Best wishes always!

### CATHOLICCARE BROKEN BAY

## Did you know that CatholicCare provides Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) services?

We assist separating and divorcing couples and their children to resolve disputes without needing to take action in the Family Court.

With the assistance of an impartial third party, family dispute resolution helps identify issues and together we develop a range of options and alternatives, with the goal to reach a settlement that is suitable to all.

Phone: 1800 324 924

Email:	info@catholiccaredbb.org.au	
Web <sup>.</sup>	https://catholiccaredbb.org.au/	

### 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		Website: Facebook:	www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia stbenedictsarcadia	
Parish Office: Email:	, 02 9653 2312 arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au	MONASTERY:	9653 1159	Facebook
Parish Priest: Email: After hours:	Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com 0437 884 233	BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund		
Address: Postal address:	2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159	and Safeguardi	ccupational Health & ng Children matters ( on 0416 081 882.	-