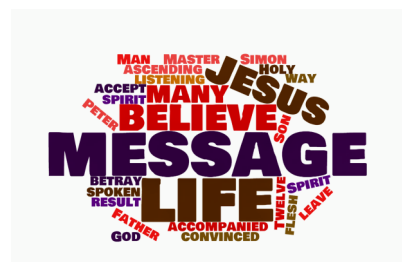


John 3:14-21

The seal of the University of Vienna, featuring a circular design with the Latin motto "PAX VRSINI" at the top and "MDCCCXIII" at the bottom. The center contains a shield divided into four quadrants, each with a different symbol: a cross, a lion, a bear, and a eagle.



**Lord,
Help me turn to your light away from darkness so I may
have eternal life. Help me experience the peace that
comes from you alone. I believe in you and in your
grace. Amen.**

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

**Responsorial Psalm:**

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

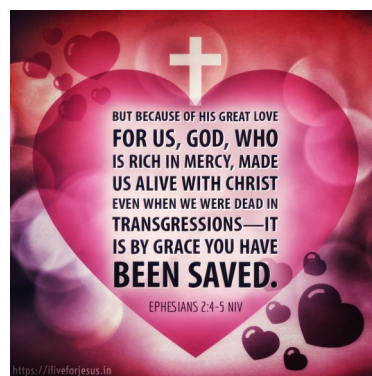
Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

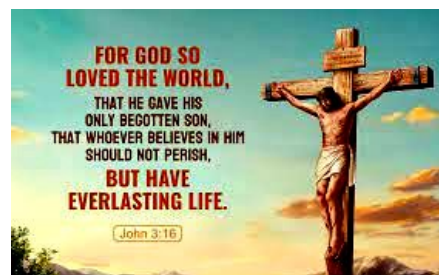
'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:

that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



GOSPEL REFLECTION
4th Sunday in Lent, March 10
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Psalm 137:1-6
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

Everyone who believes in him. . . (John 3:16)

Today's Gospel reading is full of promises to "everyone who believes" in Jesus. They will have eternal life (John 3:15). They will not perish (3:16). They will not be condemned (3:18). But what does it mean to *believe in him*?

We might think that believing in Jesus means being convinced that he is who he says he is. And it does. We agree with the truth that he is the Messiah, the Son of God. We acknowledge his miracles and the wisdom of his teachings. But intellectual assent will get us only so far. As James says, "Even the demons believe that and tremble" (2:19).

The belief that Jesus is talking about here is an act of the will; it's a decision to place our trust in Someone whom we know and love. That kind of personal connection with the Lord can spark a deep faith that changes the way we think and behave. St. John Henry Newman talked about the importance of our relationship with Jesus when he said, "No man will be a martyr for a conclusion" (*An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent*).

But even deeper, and at the heart of everything else, faith is a gift of grace from God. Our belief is more than intellectual assent or an act of the will. It's a response to God's initiative. His grace opens our minds to the truth and moves us to place our lives in Jesus' hands. Belief isn't possible without God's initial intervention. The *Catechism* puts it succinctly: "In faith, the human intellect and will cooperate with divine grace" (CCC, 155).

Today is a day overflowing with grace. So turn to the Lord and affirm your faith. Tell Jesus that you believe he is who he says he is. Entrust your life to him. As you do, your faith will continue to grow, and you will trust even more deeply in Jesus' promise of eternal life.

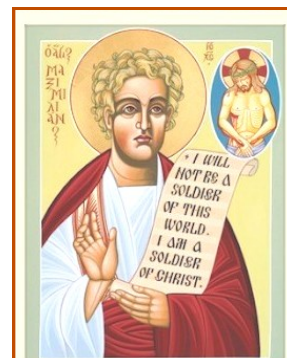
"Jesus, I believe in you!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MARCH

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Monday 11 | Readings: Is 65:17-21. Jn 4:43-54.
R: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. |
| Tuesday 12 | Readings: Ezek 47:1-9, 12. Jn 5:1-3, 5-16.
R: The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. |
| Wednesday 13 | Readings: Is 49:8-15. Jn 5:17-30.
R: The Lord is kind and merciful. |
| Thursday 14 | Readings: Ex 32:7-14. Jn 5:31-47.
R: Lord, remember us for the love you bear you people. |
| Friday 15 | Readings: Wis 2:1, 12-22. Jn 7:1-2,10, 25-30.
R: The Lord is near to broken hearts. |
| Saturday 16 | Readings: Jer 11:18-20. Jn 7:40-52.
R: Lord, my God, I take shelter in you. |



**St Maximilian of
Tebessa**

Feast day March 12

*Maximilian of Tebessa,
Pray for us that we will
retain the courage to
hold firm to our faith
despite the trials. Amen.*

Source: Ordo 2024

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2024



FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

LENTEN GROUP

The
Season
of
Lent



Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone encouraging our community to make Lent much more meaningful and spiritual.

**Commencing Wednesday 21st February at 7pm
(until 20th March 2024)**

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

**Program led by Gebran Azzi.
Everyone welcome!**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Wednesday mornings 9am
Friday nights 6.30pm**

You are all invited to Stations of the Cross inside the Parish Church every Wednesday morning 9am and Friday nights 6:30pm for prayer, reflection and meditation on Christ's Passion.



Catholic Vocations Broken Bay
Young Adult Event

ENCOUNTER

ADORATION | FORMATION | COMMUNITY

FRIDAY MARCH 15, 6PM

Save The Date!

EVENTS @ BROKEN BAY

VENUE: ST AGATHA'S CHURCH
TREBOR ROAD PENNANT HILLS 2120
P: 0418 522 449
E: vocations.ministry@bbccatholic.org.au

GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOC. (GCEA)

Thank you to everyone who attended the coffee (and delicious scones) session with Paul El-Chaar at Galston High School. It was very interesting to see where Paul teaches scripture to the students. Paul also showed us his classroom and how he teaches his students. Very fascinating. Well done Paul. We are all proud of you!

ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE

**St Benedict's
Country Fete**

Sunday 7 April 2024

10am to 3pm

2 FAGANS ROAD ARCADIA PH: 9653 2312

Trash & Treasure - Chocolate Wheel - BBQ
Devonshire Tea - Coffee - Cakes
Flowers & Plants - Rides and lots more...

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 7 APRIL 10AM TO 3PM

If any local businesses or entrepreneurs would like to hold a stall please let us know.

We need donations of **fresh flowers** on the **day before the fete** please.

We also need **NEW gifts** for chocolate wheel.

We are still in need of **good quality items**, please NO ELECTRICAL GOODS unless brand new in their original boxes. Loose items need to be in boxes. If you have any unwanted new gifts that would be great too.

Raffle tickets are now available to collect at both entries of the church. If you wish to have more please call Tania call on: 0401 597 278

We have fantastic prizes this year! We appreciate all the parishioners and local shops who donated the gifts. Also we would like to thank in advance all the parishioners who will help sell the tickets!

- First Prize:** Two nights **accommodation** including breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal Pacific.
- Second Prize:** **Dyson** V15 Detect Absolute **vacuum** stick. Includes 2 cleaner heads, 6 tools & accessories.
- Third Prize:** Man **suit** valued at \$600 from Hornsby Tailor.
- Fourth Prize:** **Dyson** Pure Cool fan TP00 (White/Silver).
- Fifth Prize:** **Dyson** Supersonic Origin **Hair Dryer**
- Sixth Prize:** 2 x tickets for a **Tall Ship** Brunch **Cruise** with drinks for 2 hours leaving from the Rocks, Sydney.
- Seventh Prize:** **Bunnings** gift card \$200

Tickets are \$3.00 each, \$30 per book.

The raffle will be drawn at 2pm at the Fete Sunday, 7TH April 2024. Good Luck!

Next Fete meeting date: Tues 19th March 7.15pm.

In Our Parish

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), Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.*

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



(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to all the young people who do the TV:

Sebastian W, Roderick R, Michael E, Xavier F, Joshua A, Leon & Adam J, Trey O'C.



Thank you for helping out working on the TV powerpoint every week. 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.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

WATCH THIS SPACE!

We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-12yr olds** is in the pipeline!

Our anticipated start is April/May. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Volunteers aged 14-16yrs who would like to assist us please let Father Shansana or Paula know.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

This week is the last week for the Reconciliation sessions. The First Reconciliation will be held on Saturday 16th of March at 9am. Please pray for the children receiving their first Reconciliation.



Confirmation Eucharist Reconciliation

Our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation, students in year 3 and above.

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 9653 2312.



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

This weekend we celebrate the Commissioning of our parish Catechists. In 1935 the Vatican published a document 'On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education', which acknowledged the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and asked every country to honour those catechists who serve within their Christian communities. As catechists begin another year of ministry, the parish is invited to stop and think about the dedicated work of these volunteers.

We acknowledge and thank the volunteer Catechists of our parish –

Arcadia PS – Lower primary – Miriam Brown
Upper primary – Martine Musumeci

Galston PS – Kindergarten – Paula El-Chaar
Years 1&2 – Bernadette Watt
Years 3&4 – Gebran Azzi
Years 5&6 – Paul El-Chaar

Glenorie PS – Kindergarten – Mary Abood and
Violet Boumerhe

Year 1 – Glenice Lui
Year 2 – Martina Jutrisa
Year 3 – Rita Sarkis
Year 4 – Gebran Azzi
Year 5 – Miriam Brown
Year 6 – Fr Bernard McGrath

Hillside PS – Lower primary – Marinka Marinov
Upper primary – Martine Musumeci

Middle Dural PS – Lower primary – Lisa Welsman and
Virginia Tanna

Upper primary – Josephine Letteri

Reserve Catechist – Rose Granata

Catechists-in-training – Mona Makaj, Courtney Sakkal
and Tania Tassone.

Paul El-Chaar also continues to teach Christian Education at Galston High School, thanks Paul!

Also, those involved in Children's Ministry in our parish:

- Sacramental Program – Nerida Woodbury, Gebran Azzi, Paula El-Chaar, Mary Cascun, Glenice Lui, Souraya Kazzi and Mary Abood.
- Children's Masses – Robin Barbara and Mary Abood.

I would also like to thank our retiring Catechists – Delel Touma, Pauline Honor, Denise Youl and Sally Souma. May God bless you for your years of service as Catechists!

Although we currently have all our classes covered, we need more Reserve Catechists and helpers for when Catechists are away or sick, so if you are available on Wednesday or Friday morning during school terms and love being with children, talk to myself or one of our Catechists or any of our priests.

If you would like to keep our Catechists in prayer, there are prayer cards, at the church entrances, you may take home.

God bless,
Miriam Brown
srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Louise de Marillac

Feast Day: March 15

c. August 12, 1591 – March 15, 1660

***Patron Saint of Social workers disappointing children, loss of parents,
people rejected by religious orders, sick people, widows***



Born near Meux, France, Louise lost her mother when she was still a child, her beloved father when she was but 15. Her desire to become a nun was discouraged by her confessor, and a marriage was arranged. One son was born of this union. But Louise soon found herself nursing her beloved husband through a long illness that finally led to his death.

Louise was fortunate to have a wise and sympathetic counselor, Francis de Sales, and then his friend, the bishop of Belley, France. Both of these men were available to her only periodically. But from an interior illumination she understood that she was to undertake a great work under the guidance of another person she had not yet met. This was the holy priest Monsieur Vincent, later to be known as Saint Vincent de Paul.

At first, he was reluctant to be her confessor, busy as he was with his "Confraternities of Charity." Members were aristocratic ladies of charity who were helping him nurse the poor and look after neglected children, a real need of the day. But the ladies were busy with many of their own concerns and duties. His work needed many more helpers, especially ones who were peasants themselves and therefore, close to the poor and able to win their hearts. He also needed someone who could teach them and organize them.

Only over a long period of time, as Vincent de Paul became more acquainted with Louise, did he come to realize that she was the answer to his prayers. She was intelligent, self-effacing, and had physical strength and endurance that belied her continuing feeble health. The missions he sent her on eventually led to four simple young women joining her. Her rented home in Paris became the training center for those accepted for the service of the sick and poor. Growth was rapid and soon there was the need for a so-called "rule of life," which Louise herself, under the guidance of Vincent, drew up for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Monsieur Vincent had always been slow and prudent in his dealings with Louise and the new group. He said that he had never had any idea of starting a new community, that it was God who did everything. "Your convent," he said, "will be the house of the sick; your cell, a hired room; your chapel, the parish church; your cloister, the streets of the city or the wards of the hospital." Their dress was to be that of the peasant women. It was not until years later that Vincent de Paul would finally permit four of the women to take annual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It was still more years before the company would be formally approved by Rome and placed under the direction of Vincent's own congregation of priests.

Many of the young women were illiterate. Still it was with reluctance that the new community undertook the care of neglected children. Louise was busy helping wherever needed despite her poor health. She traveled throughout France, establishing her community members in hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. At her death on March 15, 1660, the congregation had more than 40 houses in France. Six months later Vincent de Paul followed her in death.

Louise de Marillac was canonized in 1934 and declared patroness of social workers in 1960.

Prayer:

Loving and compassionate God, we celebrate with great joy the faith and works of our patroness St. Louise de Marillac. Instill in us the fire of her love, the tenacity of her belief, and the tenderness of her care for the most abandoned. Draw us together into the light of your presence and help us to trust in the power of your Spirit, leading us to ever closer to you, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

FETE STALL HOLDERS:

STALL	VOLUNTEER
BBQ	Andrew Sakkal 0419 333 134
Drinks	Paul and Mary Camilleri 0403 116 987
Fruit and veggies	Kazzi family 0416 169 570
Cake	Bernadette Watt and Amal Shaheen 0409 297 740
Pop corn Slushy Hot dog Fairy Floss	Ramza Saliba 0414 391 903
Devonshire Tea	Leonie Miller 8850 6456
Lollies table and lolly counting jar	Tyrone and Paul 0408 277 718
Plants	Judy Horton 0419 604 701
Trash and Treasure (secondhand toys and any goods, donated items + books)	Mary Abood 0416 261 994 Daniel and Mandah Vella
Resin Cheese Board making	Theresa Neely 0447 425 077
Maker's Table & Colouring in	Nerida, Martine & Sophie 0425 834 017
Chocolate Wheel	David Camilleri (info@camhaul.com.au)
Raffle	Tania Tassone & Liz Wallace 0401 597 278
Fire truck	Arcadia - Tom
Flowers	Jessie Guiana
Parousia Media PTY LTD	Charbel Raish
Face painting	Andrew and Tania Sakkal
Rides	Andrew Sakkal

PROJECT COMPASSION



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

16/3/2024 TO 17/3/2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

	Saturday 7.00pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Mary C	Ann L	Matt W
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Peter G	Gabrielle W
Prayers	Miriam B	Judy H	Adam J
TV		Jules O	Seb W
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Theresa N
Music		John T	Martina J
Music			
Morning Tea		Tania T	
 FLOWERS	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT		



Holy Week

EASTER MASS TIMES 2024

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 23rd March 7pm
Sunday 24th March 9am & 10.30am. Latin 4.30pm.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm Parish only

GOOD FRIDAY

29th March
10.30am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion at Parish Church only.

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday 30th March 7.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31st March 9am. Latin 10.30am

Monastery daily 7am



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

If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish office.

DRAFT ROSTER

**NOW OUTSIDE OF SACRISTY WINDOW.
THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND TO CHECK
YOUR NAMES.**

Thank You!

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@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159
Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

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.