

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C 10 & 11 MAY 2025

MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE,
AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY

FOLLOW ME

JOHN 10:27



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 9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

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:

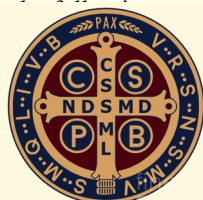
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233

Fr Eugene 0499 548 521

Parish Office 9653 2312

Please contact Father Shansana for

**BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS**



ENTRANCE PROCESSION

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.

SELF REFLECTION: BELONGING

This Sunday's Gospel, **John 10:27-30** reminds me that being close to Jesus means recognising His voice and choosing to follow Him daily. Even when I feel uncertain or lost, He knows me personally and promises to protect and guide me. His assurance that nothing can take me from His hand gives me deep peace and confidence in my faith journey.

- Am I truly listening for Jesus' voice in my daily life?
- Do I recognise when He is speaking to me through Scripture, prayer, or others?
- In what ways am I actively following Him right now?
- Do I trust that I am secure in His hands, even when life is difficult?
- How does the promise of eternal life shape the way I live today?



Lord Jesus,

Thank You for knowing me, loving me, and calling me as Your own. Help me to hear Your voice clearly and follow You faithfully. Remind me each day that I am safe in Your hands, and nothing can separate me from Your love. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to the synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God has given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14-17 (JB)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

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 10:27-30 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

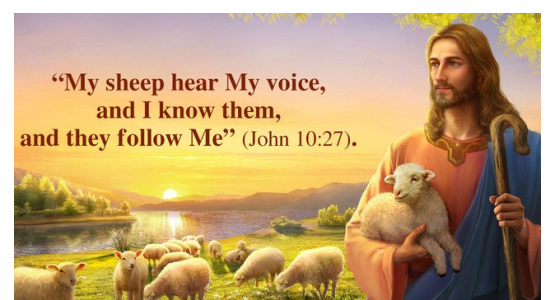
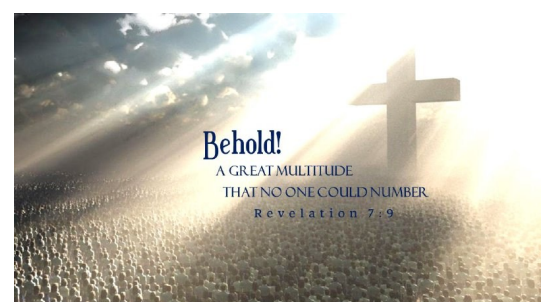
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, May 11

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5

Revelation 7:9, 14-17

John 10:27-30

The Lamb . . . will shepherd them. (Revelation 7:17)

Have you ever heard of a lamb who was also a shepherd? Today's second reading tells us that Jesus, the Lamb of God, will shepherd the saints who stand before the heavenly throne. Although this Lamb still bears the wounds of his sacrifice, he will protect the saints, lead them to life-giving water, and wipe away their tears (Revelation 5:6; 7:17). How odd!

Actually, it's *not* so odd. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is a perfect shepherd for us. Here's why:

This Lamb is a shepherd who lived his life completely obedient to the will of his Father. Every moment, he united himself with God's will. He alone perfectly walked in the path of righteousness, so of course he knows how to lead us on the same path!

This Lamb is a shepherd who defeated the powers of darkness through his humble self-offering. He freely handed himself over to death on the cross. When he rose from the dead, he defeated sin and death! He is uniquely able to protect us in the face of whatever trouble or foe comes our way.

This Lamb is a shepherd who poured out his own blood on the cross to cleanse us from all impurity. The water that flowed from his pierced side is the living water of Baptism and new life. It is to this life-giving water that he leads us.

This Lamb is a shepherd who has suffered in every way we have. He embraced our weakness and frailty. His experience of sorrow makes him all the more attentive to our own, and he tenderly wipes away our tears.

As you celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday today, spend some time considering Jesus, the Lamb who is your shepherd. Rejoice that he has not left you to make your way on this journey alone. He has gone before you and he will lead you home.

"Jesus, Good Shepherd of my soul, thank you for your love and protection!"

Source: WordAmongUs India

WEEK DAY LITURGICAL READINGS

- Monday May 12: Acts 11:1-18. Jn 10:1-10.
R. My soul is thirsting for the living God.
Sts Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs. St Pancras, martyr.
- Tuesday May 13: Acts 11:19-26. Jn 10:22-30.
R. All you nations, praise the Lord.
Our Lady of Fatima.
- Wednesday May 14: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26. Jn 15:9-17.
R. The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.
St Matthias, apostle.
- Thursday May 15: Acts 13:13-25. Jn 13:16-20.
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
- Friday May 16: Acts 13:26-33. Jn 14:1-6.
R. You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.
- Saturday May 17: Acts 13:44-52. Jn 14:7-14.
R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima



O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Share Catholic
www.sharecatholic.com

Source: Ordo 2025



POPE LEO XIV
8 MAY 2025

Lord,

Bless POPE LEO XIV with wisdom, strength and humility as he leads your Church with Your guiding Spirit. May he lead with love and truth always. Amen.

NEW ROSTER

The NEW roster is now ready to be picked up from Sacristy with your name on it. Please collect it ASAP.

ROSARY – MONTH OF MAY

During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we will be praying the **Rosary after each weekday 9:30 AM Mass**.

In addition, **evening Rosary gatherings will be held in parishioners' homes** throughout the month (in English of course). Followed by tea/coffee and sweets.

If you would like to host a Rosary in your home, please contact **Paula** to book a date on 0423 078 282.

Let us come together in prayer and devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MEETING

7:30pm Tuesday 13 May 2025
Parish Meeting Room

All committee members and guests please attend.

GCEA COMMITTEE MEETING

Just a reminder that the GCEA committee meeting is this coming Monday 12th May, 7.30pm at "The Centre" Dural Baptist Church

On behalf of the GCEA Executive
Jenn Thorp GCEA Secretary
0405 270 688

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.

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY

Happy Mother's Day to all the incredible mums.

Today we honour you – the love you give, the patience you show and the quiet strength you carry day after day. Whether you're a mum, stepmum, grandmother or someone who loves like a mum, thank you. You bring comfort, guidance and warmth in ways that last a lifetime.

Even when it's not spoken, what you do matters deeply.

We also pause to remember the mums who are no longer with us.

Their love still surrounds us, their wisdom still shapes us and their memory lives on in our hearts. To all mothers, present or remembered, thank you for the love that continues to guide us.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC FAMILIES (NACF) FAMILY DAY AT ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

National Association of Catholic Families – Family Day
Sunday, May 18 | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
St Benedict's Parish Hall, Arcadia

You are warmly invited to a Family Day hosted by the National Association of Catholic Families. Join us for an afternoon of faith, fellowship, and fun!

- A BBQ Sausage Sizzle will be before the talk.
- Guest Speaker:
Dr Gerard O'Shea—Professor of Religious Education and respected author, Dr O'Shea will share insights on faith and family life.
- Price: Donations
- BYO drinks & sweets for afternoon tea.

For more information, please contact:
Mary Clare Meney
0435 496 624 nacf.sydney@hotmail.com

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 Bruce Shankland, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

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

His Holiness POPE FRANCIS, Marilyn Deguara (George Arcella's mother in law), Domenico Fusca, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry, Colleen Bennett & Helen Facione. ~ May they rest in Peace.



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

TYRONE EL-CHAAR

thank
you!

We are excited to recognise Tyrone El-Chaar as this week's Volunteer of the Week! Tyrone has consistently gone above and beyond to support our team and community. Whether it's lending a hand during busy times, offering assistance in any form, or stepping in whenever there's a need, Tyrone's reliability and willingness to help make a tremendous impact.

His dedication and positive attitude make him an invaluable part of our volunteer team, and we are incredibly grateful for all his hard work and commitment. Thank you, Tyrone, for your selflessness and unwavering support. You truly make a difference!

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training being provided by the CCD –

- Ministry Induction training for new Catechists continues on Monday evening 6:15-8:30pm via Zoom. This week's topic is 'SRE Teacher in the Parish and School'.
- Skills in the Classroom training for all Catechists on Monday 12th May 10am – 12:15pm via Zoom on 'Listening and Questioning'

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless,
Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



PARISH NOTICES

Please note the new email address
for the parish office:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Also note that **Father Shansana** will be away from the parish from **May 9th to June 1st 2025**. During his absence, **Fr Eugene** will be looking after the parish.

For anything urgent, please contact:

- **Fr Eugene** – 0499 548 521
- **Paula** – 0423 078 282

Thank you for your understanding and prayers for Father Shansana during his time away.

PIETY SHOP NEWS



MOTHER'S DAY STOCK NOW IN!



The **Parish Piety Shop** is now stocked with a variety of thoughtful **Mother's Day gifts**—perfect for showing appreciation to the special women in your life, for mum, grandma, sister etc.

We invite you to stop by after Mass and take a look. Your support also helps our parish community!

If shop is closed please see the Priest or acolyte.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

**YOUTH GROUP COMMENCES
FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2025**

- **Fridays SCHOOL TERM**
- Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
- Ages: 8-12 years old



If you are aged 14-16 and would like to help out, please email the parish office.

All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks. Thank you, Gabe & Jules!

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

Some beautiful rosary beads were made by the ladies at the Maker's Table on Wednesday evening. Our next workshop will be 7.30pm on Wednesday, June 4th. More details coming soon.



themakerstablesydney@gmail.com

Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425-834-017

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!

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saint Pancras, Martyr

Feast Day: May 10

c. 289-c.304



Patron Saint of children, jobs, and health

Invoked against cramps, false witnesses, headaches, and perjury

When Pancras was born toward the end of the third-century, Diocletian was the emperor of the Roman Empire, sharing ruling authority with three others. Emperor Diocletian slowly reversed a trend of tolerating Christianity, beginning the final wide-reaching persecution of Christians. In 303, Diocletian and his co-ruler Galerius published an edict under which churches were destroyed, Scriptures burned, those who refused to sacrifice to the Roman gods were killed. A fourteen-year-old boy named Pancras was among them.

Pancras was born in Phrygia, Asia Minor, in modern-day Turkey. Orphaned by the age of eight, Pancras was entrusted to the care of Denis, his uncle, who took him to live in Rome. In Rome, Pancras and Denis converted to Christianity and lived their faith with deep devotion. In 304, Pancras was among the Christians who were routinely being brought before the authorities to renounce their faith and offer sacrifice to the gods. Tradition states that Pancras was brought before Diocletian and refused to offer sacrifice to the gods. Impressed with the fourteen year old's courage, Diocletian tried to persuade him, offering Pancras wealth and honor if he only burned incense to the gods. One thirteenth-century legend gives Pancras' response to the emperor as: "Though I am a child in body, my heart is old, and by the virtue of my Lord Jesus Christ, your threats and menaces move me no more than does the painting that I see upon the wall. These gods that you want me to worship are but deceivers of creatures..." The emperor was outraged and ordered that Pancras and his uncle, now Saint Denis, be beheaded on May 12 on the Via Aurelia outside of Rome.

After Pancras' death, devotion to him began to grow. In the sixth century, Pope Symmachus built a basilica over his tomb. At the end of the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great sent a Roman monk to England to convert King Æthelberht and to become England's first bishop. After successfully converting the king and his kingdom, the monk-bishop, now known as Saint Augustine of Canterbury, built the first Church in England and named it after Saint Pancras. Pope Gregory sent relics of the saint to inspire the people. Devotion to Saint Pancras spread widely throughout England from the very beginning of the kingdom's Christianization. Eventually, miracles were attributed to Saint Pancras' intercession by those who prayed at his tomb.

It is also said that at the end of the sixth century, the Archbishop of Tours, France, made the claim that anyone who told a lie at the tomb of Saint Pancras would be attacked by demons or even die. As a result, the saint's relics continued to be distributed to other churches. Oaths made before his relics were thought to be so binding that they were held up in some courts of law.

Saint Pancras, though young in age, you were old in faith and courage. You chose to die rather than to worship false gods. Please pray that I will imitate your faith and courage, holding nothing back from my wholehearted service of the true King of all Kings. Saint Pancras, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

BENEDICTUS

A Heartfelt Thank You



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped celebrate the remarkable milestones of Fr. Bernard's 50th Anniversary of Ordination, Fr. Michael's 60th Anniversary of Profession, and Fr. Shansana's 25th Anniversary of Profession. It was truly a special day, filled with joy and meaningful reflections on their dedicated service.

A big thank you to all those who contributed their time, effort, and love to make this celebration so memorable. Your support and participation helped make this occasion unforgettable, and we are grateful for each person who joined in honouring these incredible milestones. A big thank you to all your kid donations to this wonderful cause!

May God bless you all!

Jubilee of Musical Ensembles 10 - 11 May 2025



The purpose of celebrating Musical Ensembles in this Year of Jubilee is to become aware of, and give thanks for, the contribution of those who use their musical skills to support and enhance the liturgy, and to serve the community in other ways.



PASTORAL WORKS MAY 2025

In this Holy Jubilee Year, our hope is to connect to the mission of Jesus Christ each day.

Please support our upcoming
Pastoral Works May 2025 Appeal

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care



Your gift to MAY 2025 APPEAL is tax-deductible. Donate via QR Code or at www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks

PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

This month, we invite you to support the Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeal! Look out for the envelopes located in your parish, or make your contribution here: www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks

Your generosity makes a real difference in support of vital local ministries and programs, including:

Hospital Chaplaincy – Bringing comfort and hope to the sick and isolated
Support for Catechists – Sharing the Gospel with children in public schools

Thank you for being a part of this mission to bring the hope and healing of Christ to our community.

**All donations over \$2
are 100% tax deductible.**
Envelopes can be found on the pews.

Parish Roster

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS**

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**17/5/25 to 18/5/25
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C**

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Miriam B	Judy H	Lorna B
Reader2	Margaret B	Kath M	John Family
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Nigel M	Sharon O
TV		Azzi family	Trey O
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Keith W
Music		John T	Jack/Adam F
Music			Marisa Q
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
FLOWERS	Souraya K		



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

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.

**For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm
(School holidays only open Fridays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

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

Facebook: [stbenedictsarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsarcadia)



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

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NOTICE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Parents,

Please note that First Holy Communion sessions will resume as follows:

- Wednesday group: Commences May 7
- Friday group: Commences May 9

The above sessions are for children who began the Sacramental Program with Confirmation last year.

NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS (JUNE)

Enrolments for the next Sacramental Program will open in June. Forms will be distributed through public schools in the coming weeks.

For children not attending public schools, please contact the parish office or collect a form from the Church Sacristy.

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

DID YOU KNOW...

The palms from Palm Sunday are burned to make the ash for Ash Wednesday.



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