

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



To prefer nothing to the love of Christ.
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

Church Attendance:
One person per 4sqm,
maximum 150 people.

Masks are strongly
recommended by the Bishop.

ONLINE Booking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BJSGK>
Or call Paula on 0423 078 282



PARISH MASSES

Weekend Mass:

Saturday	7:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
Sunday	10:30am
Sunday Latin	4.30pm

Weekday Mass:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 7:00pm followed by Confession
First Friday of the month 6.30pm Adoration

MONASTERY CHAPEL Mass

Sundays	7:00am
Daily	7:00am

Please contact Father Bernard for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

Fr Bernard: 0416 032 497

First Sunday of Advent Year B

28 & 29 November 2020

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

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

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

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

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

Gospel reading for this Week**Mark 13:33-37**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Jerusalem Bible translation of Scripture is used in the Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). Acknowledgement: The Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers. Liturgia Copyright 2020

GOSPEL REFLECTION**Mark 13:33-37**

Now that we are into a new liturgical year we transition into Cycle B readings. During this cycle we focus on the Gospel of Mark (Cycle A was the Gospel of Matthew and Cycle C is the Gospel of Luke, with the Gospel of John being interspersed).

In today's reading from the Gospel of Mark we hear about the return of Christ. Jesus affirms that we will not know when His return will be. Therefore, we should not get caught up in predictions of His return as, unfortunately, many people have made throughout history and especially in recent years. Trying to predict the time of His return is pointless and only serves to distract us from the point of Jesus' words here and elsewhere about His second come: prepare! Jesus wants us to be ready for His return. We are to be "alert" and "watchful." That means we are to be focused on the Lord. It's easy in our society to get distracted. There are hundreds of things pulling us in different directions, especially this time of year, so we can easily lose focus of what's most important: our faith.

During Advent, we are called to focus on our relationship with God. We are called, in particular, to repent of sins and receive God's forgiveness. That way, we can be ready when Jesus comes. While Jesus is away (like the traveling man in the Gospel), what are we doing with what He has given us? Are we working diligently to fulfill what He asks us to do? Or are we sleeping and, therefore, not paying attention to God's will? We cannot know when Jesus will return but we can ensure that when He comes His house will not be in shambles. We should prepare our hearts by turning from sin and turning to God this Advent.

Taking it Home:

Take time this week to do an examination of conscience, reflecting on where you have fallen short in serving God. Then, visit the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess those sins. God is waiting there to offer you His grace and forgiveness.

If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready? Would he find His "house" (i.e. your life) in shambles or in good order? What do you need to do in order to prepare your heart for Christ's return? Maybe it's time to do some housecleaning and ready yourself to welcome Christ.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

1506-1552

Feast Day: December 3

Patron Saint of foreign missions



Today's great missionary knelt on the floor next to Saint Ignatius Loyola and five other men in a church on Montmartre overlooking Paris in 1534 and took private vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to the Pope. It was the start of the Jesuits. Francis Xavier would be ordained a priest three years later in Venice and, in 1540, would sail from Lisbon, Portugal, to India, never to return. The thirteen-month sea journey was brutal, but Francis was as tough as bark. He held his own with all the sailors, slaves, and criminals on board who were seeking to start anew for reasons noble and otherwise. When Francis arrived in Goa, India, he and his two confreres found a Portuguese settlement about thirty years old. As was sadly typical, the greatest hindrance to the success of Spanish, Portuguese, and French missionaries was their own countrymen. Slave traders, merchants, pirates, nobles, and crown officials gave a contrary Christian witness, which undercut the priests' own teaching and example. It was said that when the Portuguese whipped their servants, they counted the lashes on their rosary beads.

Francis' first goal was to evangelize the settlers. He preached, taught, heard confessions, and encouraged the Portuguese to live their baptismal faith if they harbored any hope of winning India for Christ. After working among his own for a few years establishing the basic structures of an organized church, including a seminary, Francis went on the first of his incessant voyages, the sub-missions inside of his greater mission to Asia. Among the people of the islands near modern-day Sri Lanka, Francis slept on the dirt like they did. He ate rice and drank water like they did. He put the Our Father and Hail Mary to music and so made these prayers easier to remember. He became a father to a humble people and baptized so many thousands that helpers had to hold up his arm to continue his sacramental work. That very arm is found today in a reliquary in the Jesuit's mother church in Rome, the Gesù, near the tomb of Saint Ignatius Loyola.

Francis used Goa as his base as he departed on one missionary journey after another among the islands off of Southeast Asia. He wrote letters to Ignatius and to the King of Portugal describing his labors and plans, bemoaning the lack of priests and the unethical behavior of his fellow Europeans. On one journey, he heard of an archipelago that no European had yet entered. It was Japan. Francis started to plan and, in 1549, he was the first missionary to plant his foot into the soil of the Land of the Rising Sun. The work was difficult. As so many Europeans noted, Japanese culture was fundamentally unlike other Asian cultures. The Japanese were intellectually sophisticated, sensitive to slights, honorable, open to reason, and naturally inquisitive. But the language was impenetrable, the leaders often hostile, and the monks welcoming only until they realized that Francis' religion was a rival to their own. An expert missionary, Francis had to create a neologism adapted from Latin—*Deusu*—to convey the Christian concept of the word God. No equivalent existed in Japanese.

After little visible success in Japan, Francis had further adventures on land and sea before he embarked on a plan to enter the vast and forbidden territory of China. But it was not to be. On December 2, 1552, Francis Xavier died of fever at the age of forty-six on a small island a few miles distant from the shores of mainland China. Like Moses, he died seeing the promised land but never entered it. Francis was buried in a shallow grave in the sand as four people looked on. His body was covered with lime in case anyone wanted to recover it later. They did. This Apostle to the Indies and Japan was canonized in 1622 and is considered the Church's greatest missionary after Saint Paul. His body is largely incorrupt and rests in a glass coffin in a church in Goa, India.

Saint Francis Xavier, your indefatigable journeying to spread the Gospel inspired generations of missionaries. May your legacy of generosity and vigor continue in us as we convert others through our own witness of virtue, work, and charity for all. AMEN.

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

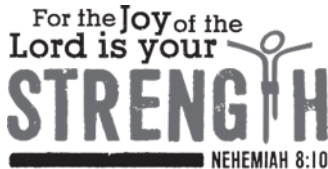
Chapter 4

*In the first place, to love the Lord God with all one's heart, all one's soul, and all one's strength.
Then, one's neighbour as oneself.*

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

**We pray that the progress of robotics and
Artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.
AMEN**



CATHOLIC MISSION

This weekend our parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal. This year we are invited to partner with the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability and giving them hope and support to live a fulfilling life.

Chen was just 16 years old when he lost both his legs in a landmine accident. Knowing that his life would never be the same, he felt hopeless, until he and his family were approached by the Arrupe Centre. Led by Bishop Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, the Arrupe Centre provides children like Chen with support and opportunities they may not access otherwise.

Next week you will be offered the opportunity to personally partner with the Church in Cambodia as a monthly giving partner, with all gifts specifically directed to support community and child-focused programs in Cambodia. Please come prepared to give generously. You will find envelopes on the pews or just see below:



Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/cambodia

GIFTS OF FAITH

A Gift of Faith is a Christmas present given in place of a material gift. You can arrange multiple Gifts of Faith for children, grandchildren, godchildren, siblings, cousins, co-workers, friends and parishioners.



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

You choose the gifts and the quantity and we send you the matching cards to distribute. Once you receive your matching cards and envelopes simply complete them and put them under the tree for Christmas!

Will you help us keep the faith alive by giving a Gift of Faith this Christmas? Find out more:

www.thatcatholicshop.com/giftsoffait

2021 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

The 2021 Columban Calendars are now available for purchase at the main entrance for \$9 donation each.



2021 Columban Art Calendar

Please contact parish office if you would like us to add to the below to pray for someone

Call 9653 2312 or email: arcadia.pariah@bigpond.com

In Our Parish

We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Sister Clement.
We welcome into God's family to all who were recently baptised especially Isaac Basha and Lucas Steer.
We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Nancy Kazzi and Tony Jasprizza.

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS AT VINNIES THIS YEAR

Because of Covid regulations and restrictions, your Conference members will **not** be packing grocery hampers this Christmas. Instead, we hope to give our few clients Gift Vouchers. We will use any money that you place in the **Poor Boxes** at the Church during November/early December to buy these vouchers and send what money is not used on to Vinnies head office, as usual.

If you need a receipt for your donation, please leave the details in an envelope in the box or let Paula at the Parish Office know.

BENEDICTINE NUNS JAMBEROO ONLINE RETREATS

The Benedictine Nuns of Jamberoo are beginning to offer online retreats. Our upcoming retreat is titled:

Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days

Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ.

The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

For more information go to the following link on our website:

www.jamberooabbey.org.au - click on [Retreats](#)

MASS OF INCLUSION - SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

The annual Mass of Inclusion will be celebrated by Bishop Anthony Randazzo at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara on Sunday, 6 December 2020 at 11.00am. This Mass marks the International Day of Disability (on 3 December) and recognises the ability and dignity of all.

This year, we encourage all to join via the live stream at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf17i14XB9TsVBrLvQ>

Due to the current restrictions, there are very limited places available for people to attend in person. Should you wish to enquire please contact Nicholas Weir at nicholas.weir@bbcatholic.org.au or phone 8379 1632.

CHRISTMAS ROSTER 2020

The Roster is available at the Sacristy window for Christmas Masses. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please fill in your names for the times you are available. Otherwise email the office arcadia.parish@bigpond.com with the times and slots you are available to help out.

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every Friday night after 7pm Mass, and Wednesday mornings after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CATECHIST NEWS

Final SRE dates are Arcadia this Wednesday 2nd December; Hillside this Friday 4th December and for Galston and Middle Dural Wednesday 9th December.

Our **Year 6 students** are invited to **9am Mass next Sunday 6th December** to celebrate their final year in primary school. All Year 6 children present at this Mass will be presented with a Bible. If your child is in Year 6 and will be present at this Mass, please let me know, to ensure there are sufficient Bibles.

If you are interested in becoming a Catechist next year or learning more about this special ministry, please give me a call or talk to Fr Bernard or one of our Catechists.

God bless,

Miriam Brown 9652 0558 or srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

WANTED: LOVING MARRIED COUPLES

Become a Sponsor couple



SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church.

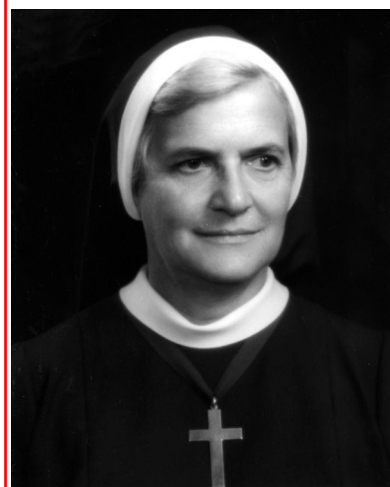
Find out more at this free information session: Wed, 9 December - 8pm AEDT | www.smartloving.org/webinar

REST IN PEACE SISTER CLEMENT

Thank you to everyone who attended Sister Clem's beautiful Vigil Prayer Service. She will be greatly missed.



**Good Samaritan Sister
CLEMENT BASEDEN**
Born 19 August 1927
Entered eternal life
18 November 2020



ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods

24 November 2020

Vox Episcopi - The Voice of the Bishop

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today, in our liturgical calendar, we remember St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions. In 1988, Pope John Paul II canonised 117 martyrs who had died for the faith at various times in Vietnam. It is a rather remarkable group of the faithful. Of the 117 people, 96 were Vietnamese, 11 were Spaniards, and 10 were French. Apart from the variety of nationalities, this group of martyrs comprised eight bishops, 50 priests, and 59 of Christ's lay faithful. There was also one seminarian.

I am constantly reminded by this commemoration that testimony to the faith is part and parcel to the Christian vocation. The ultimate testimony is to shed one's blood. In John's Gospel, Jesus lays out the pattern for discipleship, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:12-14) Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and the Vietnamese martyrs are a marvellous example of putting the words of Jesus into action.

Throughout our community of the Church, there are many Catholics, from Vietnam, and from other nations around the world where the freedom of Religion is under threat. Many individuals and families have suffered and have living memory of those sufferings, and yet they continue to make a vital contribution to the mission of the Church in our local community. Suffering is always a challenge, and yet these martyrs encourage us not to be engulfed by the burden of pain or hopelessness. Their example of faith is the encouragement that I believe we need in uncertain times.

This week, I would like to offer a word of gratitude to the many people in our community of the Church, who, despite their suffering offer us encouragement and hope. Martyrdom can be lived in so many ways, through many little deaths in life. Ultimately our faith helps make sense of them, and with a sense of hope in Jesus, each one of us can be inspired to offer our lives in testimony to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We take inspiration from Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, my brothers and sisters, so that we may never lose hope.

Blessings on your week,

+Anthony

CHANGES TO THE COLLECTS IN THE ROMAN MISSAL

On 13 May 2020, Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, wrote to Episcopal Conferences in relation to a change to the Trinitarian conclusion to the collects (opening prayers) in the Roman Missal (2010).

Until recently, a typical conclusion to the collect read as follows:

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Cardinal Sarah's letter indicated that the inclusion of the word "one" before God is problematic in relation to the Latin text: "Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum". The inclusion of the word "one" before God, Cardinal Sarah wrote:

... can serve to undermine the statement of the Son's unique identity within the Trinity which the Latin formulas so strongly convey and, on the other hand, it can also be interpreted as saying that Jesus Christ is "one God". Either or both of these interpretations is injurious to the faith of the Church.

It is clear from the Latin texts that the doxology emphasises the divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son, who intercedes on our behalf, as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, to the Father and which prayer is made in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Son's role of priestly mediation is made clear. To transfer the Trinitarian relational element in uniate as meaning unus Deus is incorrect.

The omission of the word "one" before God will mean that the three possible conclusions to the collects [as outlined in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (2012), n. 54] will read as follows:

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
for ever and ever.

Or

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Or

Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Following advice from the Bishops Commission for Liturgy, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference approved the change to the Trinitarian conclusions to the collect prayers in the Roman Missal. The change will take effect from the First Sunday of Advent, 29 November 2020.

Bishops Commission for Liturgy | 28 September 2020

POSITION VACANT - ST AGATHA'S PARISH, PENNANT HILLS

Youth Minister – Pastoral Support Worker, St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills
10 hours per week

Do you have a passion for working with youth and young people? Are you dynamic and enthusiastic about the Catholic faith? Are you willing to help our youth and young people engage with their faith in a fun, caring and supportive environment?

St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills invites you to join our team as a Youth Minister.
Visit bbcatholic.org.au/jobs for the full advertisement.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a pre-employment Working with Children Check and National Police History Check.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December 2020: 7pm & 11.30pm (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 9am & 10.30am

Latin Mass—To Be Advised.

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 7am



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Bookings is still essential or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 4sqms and sanitize your hands at the door. Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.

**MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME, ISOLATE AND GET TESTED.**

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.

Office Hours: Mondays 10.30am to 2.30pm

Fridays 10am to 3pm

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Bernard McGrath OSB

After hours: 0416 032 497

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and Safeguarding Children matters

Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159

Good Samaritan Sisters: 9653 1231

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 1446 8001