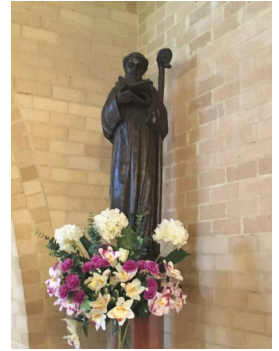
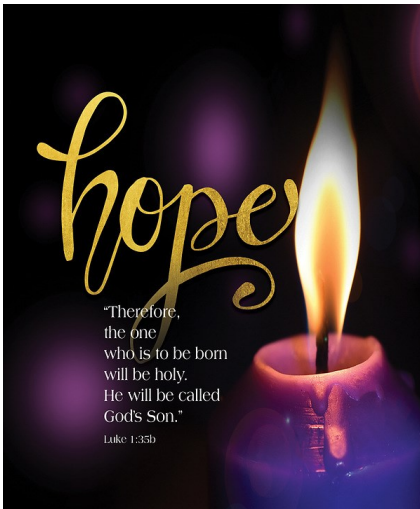


St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



27 & 28 November 2021

First Sunday of Advent Year C



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)
Saturdays 10am to 11am
Adoration & Confession
(Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Hilarion for the following:

**BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS**

Fr Hilarion: 0478 909 541

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.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Let us pray:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
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.

Amen.

FR HILARION WRITES



Dear friends in Christ,

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord,
at Christmas and the second coming. The liturgy invites us
to wait for the coming of Jesus, to become disciples who
wait for Jesus with patience and hope. It is also a time for a
new beginning. It is an opportunity for us to ask, if we truly
are seeking God.

My humble request is to give a bit more attention to
spiritual activities, while we enjoy God given gifts without
forgetting the poor.

Your greatest joy, I assure you, will be to bring Jesus and
His blessings to another.

Wish you all a fruitful season of Advent!

Yours in Jesus,
Dom Hilarion OSB

First Reading**Jeremiah 33:14-16 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

“ ‘The Days Are Coming,’
Declares The Lord , ‘When
I Will Fulfill The Gracious
Promise I Made To The
House Of Israel And To The
House Of Judah.

Jeremiah 33-14

Second Reading**1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2 (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

Alleluia!

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that
you have the strength to escape the
tribulations that are imminent and to
stand before the Son of Man."

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
1st Sunday of Advent – Cycle C

GOSPEL**Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Be vigilant at all times. . . . Your redemption is at hand. (Luke 21:36, 28)
So begins another Advent—with words of warning to stay alert, but also with words of confident reassurance. Isn't it funny how we are so quick to focus on the verses that sound threatening, but lose sight of the ones that remind us how faithful God is and how deeply committed he is to us.

Do you believe that right now, God wants nothing but good things for you? After all, he has been pouring out grace on his people for millennia. From the very beginning, he has been leading us to the day of our "redemption," so why would he stop now (Luke 21:28)?

In today's first reading, we see St. Paul praying that the people of Thessalonika will deepen in their love for each other as they wait for the Lord's return (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13). Now, Paul didn't say this because he thought that the Thessalonians were doing poorly. Quite the opposite, he begins his letter by praising them for their "work of faith and labor of love" (1:3). Paul wasn't correcting them or admonishing them; he was congratulating them and urging them to go deeper!

The same is true for you. God isn't upset that your faith in him or your love for other people isn't greater than it is. He knows your heart; he knows how much you want to please him. No, he delights in the faith and love that you do have—incomplete though it may be. Now he is urging you to take another step so that you can be even more faith-filled and loving.

We are entering Advent, a grace-filled season when God invites us to journey deeper into his love and his presence. Over the next four weeks, you'll find numerous opportunities to connect with the Lord, whether it is at Mass, in prayer, or in your encounters with other people. Make the most of them. Trust that each situation is another opportunity for your redemption to unfold even more.

"Lord, draw me closer to you this Advent!"

(Source: Word Among Us India).

THE CRY OF ADVENT

Holy Church cries out to Jesus, desiring that we join her in repeating the word proper to Advent – the plea of the exile – "Come!" In heaven our song will express possession, felicity; from our lips and from our lips and from our heart will break forth the "new canticle" of holy Scripture. But in our banishment, although once in a while that heavenly chant flashes like lightning at midnight, ordinarily we can intone only the word of hope and desire: "Come! Come!"

This is the word of exile. Let us not tire of repeating it. If we lie in darkness and in the shadows of death, let us cry out to him: "Come!" And he will come with his grace to purify us and to lift us up. If we sit in sadness and dejection, let us continue pleading: "Come! Come!" And he will come with his presence to scatter our sadness and with his help to strengthen our weakness. May the constant cry of hope and of desire never fail to rise from our heart; then each coming of Jesus will purify us, give us life, and make us happy by inflaming us with love.

Here on earth love has the strange prerogative of producing emptiness in our hearts the more it fills them; of producing a thirst the more it refreshes us; for each degree of love that our soul receives is a new desire for Jesus, a new vacancy hollowed out in it, a new degree of hope and of desire blossoming from the depth of our being. Hence, the more we love the more we repeat the word of exile, "Come!" Even when arrived at the peak of perfection, from that height we continue pleading, and with greater vehemence we utter the same word: "Come!"

Is it not this same word that forms the theme, so to speak of the blessed symphony of this world while awaiting the consummation of time? At the end of Revelation, Saint John paints with two masterly strokes – two phrases – the history of the world since Jesus came twenty centuries ago until he will return to judge the living and the dead at the end of time: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come". Let everyone who listens answer, "Come".
Come, Lord Jesus.

SERVANT OF GOD LUIS MARIA MARTINEZ

Archbishop Martinez (+1956) was a spiritual author and the first official Primate of Mexico.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	November 30, 2021:	St Andrew, apostle
Friday	December 3, 2021:	St Francis Xavier, priest
Saturday	December 4, 2021:	St John Damascene, priest, doctor

Source: Ordo 2021



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

Not to render cursing for cursing, but rather blessing.

PARISH FUNDS

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the parish by helping out in the past few weeks. We really appreciate it.

With the suspension of Liturgies and Masses, our parish income has been severely affected, especially we have not had a fete for two years. Planned Giving, Donations and Electronic Transfers has been keeping us going during that difficult time.

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK DETAILS

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 100002141

**Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund**

God bless you all!

MASS FOR ANOINTING OF THE SICK

There will be a Mass for Anointing of the Sick on **Saturday 11th of December 10.30am** at our parish. If you know anyone who is sick, housebound or elderly in need of healing, please let us know if they need transport.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a Sacrament which celebrates our faith in the healing touch of Christ in our lives. We pray that the sick person be healed in body, soul and spirit. The Sacrament offers forgiveness and healing. Not only in physical healing but in mind as well, easing our anxieties, healing our wounds and fears turn to hope.

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."
(James 5:14-15)

Morning tea will be provided afterwards. Everyone welcome.



In Our Parish

We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died.

We pray for the sick of our Parish,
especially Brother Mario, and Theresa Gittany (Lila Bacha's mum).



JOIN US FOR CAMPION COLLEGE'S

SUMMER PROGRAM

11-14 OR 18-21 JANUARY 2022
8-14 AUSTIN WOODBURY PL TOONGABBIE NSW 2146

Experience college life and a taste of Campion's liberal arts degree!
Immersive program for ages 16-20 incl. accommodation on campus

History • Literature • Philosophy • Theology • Latin • Ancient Greek
Swimming • Sports • Movie Night • Trivia • Dancing • Games

Free to attend thanks to our generous donors! Spaces are limited!
Get in touch: (02) 9896 9303 or study@campion.edu.au
Find out more and register: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:

ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence. This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens.

To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal.

Call: 1800 101 201 or 02 9167 9517 (direct).

ST BENEDICT'S MINI FETE

On Saturday 18th of December from 3pm and Sunday 19th December after the Masses, we will be holding stalls and items for fundraising.

Update on our new puzzles that have just come in. Are you looking for a Christmas, communion, or any other present. Puzzles are 500 pieces \$25. I will be selling these to raise money for our local parish St Benedict Arcadia. The supplier will donate \$13 from every puzzle sold. Please private message me to place an order on the new or our older puzzles (limited stock we still have). Thankyou.



Lila Bacha Phone: 0418 360 024

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2021

- The confirmed date is on:
Saturday the 18th of December 2021 at 2pm.
- The preparation day is on:
Saturday the 4th of December 2021
from 10am to 12pm.
- We request all the candidates and their parents to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/ confession prior to the event.



For any information please contact:
Theresa Neely on 0447 425 077

NURSING APPOINTMENT

Arrupe House Pymble is a small community of retired Jesuits, priests and brothers.

An experienced registered nurse is required to work with a small team of nurses.

This position is on a permanent part-time or casual basis with AM duties.

Please email your CV to
Drupthi: arrupehouse@siasl.org.au

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

Friday nights:

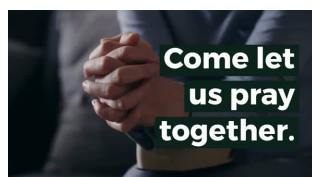
after 7pm Mass

Wednesday mornings:

after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.



CATECHIST NEWS

As Advent begins this week, I would like to wish all families a joyful Advent. The CCD has prepared a lovely Advent and Christmas message from the Catholic SRE teachers to all families. Please go to the link or website below to access a variety of craft and cooking activities as well as links to Advent and Christmas songs, family prayers and more. [An Advent & Christmas Message from Catholic SRE Scripture Teachers \(https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/ccd/ccd-christmas-message/catholic-sre-christmas-message-2021\)](https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/ccd/ccd-christmas-message/catholic-sre-christmas-message-2021)

Next Sunday 5th December at 10:30am we will be holding our **Children's Mass**. We would like to invite all children to attend to celebrate. We would particularly like to invite the children in **Year 6** to be involved in the Mass. All children in Year 6 present will receive a Bible and certificate. If your child is in Year 6 and would like to be involved or will be present, please send me a message on srearcadia@gmail.com by Friday 3rd December.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



DISABILITY & NDIS SUPPORTS

The NDIS has opened up possibilities you may not have thought about. However, it's not always straightforward. Let CatholicCare (our dedicated social services agency in the Diocese) work with you to develop the skills and access the support you need to maximise your independence, get out and about in the community, and achieve your personal goals.

CatholicCare is an NDIS registered provider with the Quality and Safeguards Commission. Our dedicated staff pride themselves on developing strong relationships with the people we support along with their families and carers. We work with you to create a world where people living with a disability are valued equally, listened to and included. Our Support Coordination services help you organise your NDIS plan and maximise your funding. CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay offers:

- Tailored Individual Programs
- After Schools & Vacation Care Programs
- Flexible Group Programs
- Sports & Dance Academies
- Recreational Activities
- Creative Arts Programs
- Social & Skills Development
- Support Coordination
- Independence & Life Skills Supported Independent Living Services

For more information visit:

www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/disability-futures/
or call (02) 9488 2500.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome. For more details call Angela Egiziano.
Ph: 9653 2312.



BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. As we begin this Advent Season, we ask you to bless this Advent wreath. We honour and remember your first coming at Bethlehem, You are coming, now, among us in grace. We recall your final coming in glory.

Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that they may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as universal king for ever and ever.

All: Amen



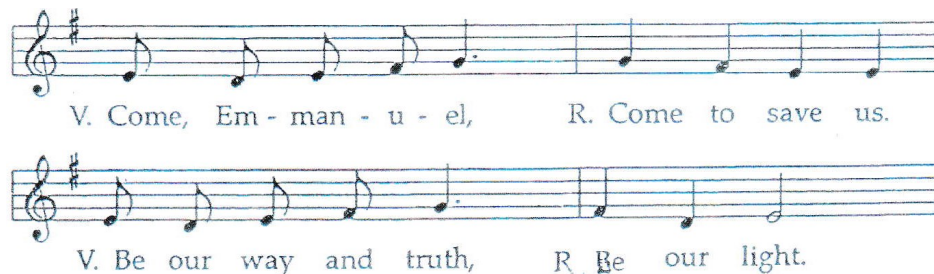
Lighting of the Advent Candles

Priest: May this sprinkling with waters of Baptism remind us of our first sharing in the life of grace that we may prepare for the Lord's coming now and always.

All: Amen

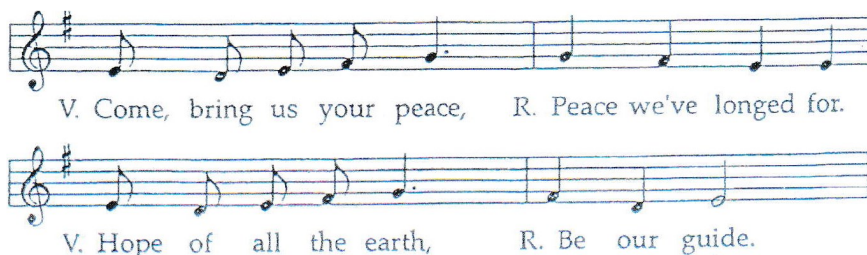
The FIRST Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle, symbolises Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming. It is now lit by the Acolyte. We recall the Old Testament prophecies of the birth of the messiah.

Reader: Lord Jesus, light of the world, sign of salvation, come that we may have life in its fullness.



*Composed by Father Stephen List,
Tarrawarra Abbey. Used with Permission.*

Reader: Lord Jesus, you were heralded by all the prophets as the one who would save the people from their sins.



*Composed by Father Stephen List,
Tarrawarra Abbey. Used with Permission.*

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor
C. 674 - 749

Feast Day: December 4



Patron Saint of icon painters and theology students

A monk defends images from Christian attack while living in a Muslim land

"Christ...did not save us by paintings," a Synod of Bishops declared in Paris in 825. God, it could be added, did not become an icon. He became a man, and so sanctified creation itself, not just art. In the eighth century, a raging debate, even violence, over the role of images in Christianity tore at the fabric of the undivided Church. The deep wounds inflicted in the body of Christ by the iconoclastic controversy took decades to close. Today's saint helped the healing start. John of Damascus explained in clear, deep, and evocative language the theological significance of venerating images. He thus helped bishops, emperors, and popes to think their way out of the controversy. For his learned defense of images, Saint John Damascene was declared a Doctor of the Church centuries later, in 1890. Ironically, John's brave defense of icons was possible because he lived behind the Muslim curtain, in Syria. He lived beyond the reach of the long arm of Constantinople, a city whose emperors opposed icons partly to appease their new and violent geopolitical neighbors, the Muslims, whose mosques were adorned with geometric patterns, not faces and bodies.

John of Damascus (or Damascene) is known primarily through his writings. The details of his life are few. When his native Syria was overrun in the 630s by a new, martial religion that blew like the wind out of Saudi Arabia, John's family served in the local caliph's administration. The Muslim conquest was facilitated by the local population of subjugated, but educated, Christians and Jews who were conquered but not displaced. They carried out the everyday tasks of empire building of which the illiterate horsemen of the desert knew nothing. John and his family were part of this large administrative class of Arabic non-Muslims. Our saint, then, personally lived the epochal transition of Syria from a Constantinople-focused Christian culture to a Mecca-facing Muslim one.

After receiving a complete education from a captive Catholic priest, John abandoned his secular career while a young adult and entered a monastery near Jerusalem to become a priest and monk. The rest of his life was dedicated to his own personal perfection and to theological and literary pursuits. Islam's prohibition of images forced Christian theologians to defend and explain something that had never before been challenged—the ubiquitous Christian use, in both public and private, of icons, statues, medals, crucifixes, and other forms of art. John was the first to distinguish between the *worship* rendered to God alone and the *veneration* given to images and those they represent. John noted that the saint is not the paint on the wood any more than Jesus is the ink on the page of the Gospel. Such distinctions were needed to respond to both Islam and to the Old Testament strictures against the use of images, an exception to which was found, in any case, in the God-sanctioned adornments on the Ark of the Covenant.

John Damascene argued that when God took flesh He ended the era of the misty, faceless God. Because God chose to be visible, the Christian can venerate the Creator of matter who became matter for man's sake. Salvation was achieved via created matter, so we venerate that matter not absolutely, but contingently. Did not Christ hang on the wood of the cross? Did He not consecrate bread and wine? Was He not baptized in water? The matter of which images are made comes from God Himself and thus shares in His goodness. Even the Sacraments make use of the elements of creation to become vehicles of God's grace. John's ideas won the day, long after his death, at the Second Council of Nicea in 787, which condemned iconoclasm. From that point until the rise of Protestantism, art was correctly understood in Western culture as an extended celebration of the Incarnation. When we gaze in wonder at the mellow glow of stained glass, marvel at the smooth serenity of the face of Mary in Michelangelo's Pietà, or wonder at the explosion of the baroque in an Italian church, we should whisper thanks to today's saint for saving the day just when it needed to be saved.

Saint John Damascene, you studied and wrote so that the illiterate of your time could "read" icons and so know and love the Lord by just looking at Him, His mother, and His saints. Help all catechists to use their education to defend the faith of those unable to explain it to themselves.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December 2021: 7pm & 11.30pm (*Midnight Mass*)
Christmas Day Saturday 25th December 2021: 9am
25th December 2021: 10.30am (*Latin Mass*)
25th December 2021: 7pm (*Vigil for The Holy Family*)
New Years Day Saturday 1st January 2022: 9.30am & 7pm

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2021: 7am
New Year Day Saturday 1st January 2022: 7am



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2021



PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION

*We pray that people who suffer from depression
or burn-out will find support
and a light that opens them up to life.
AMEN.*

COVID 19 SAFETY RULES

PLEASE WEAR MASKS.

Please use QR CODE or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries.
Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 2sqms and sanitise your hands at the door.
Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.
**IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME, ISOLATE AND GET TESTED.**

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 Hilarion 0478 909 541, Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882, Office for Safeguarding 83791605.*

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.

Office Hours: **Mondays & Fridays**
9.30am to 2.30pm
Parish Office: 9653 2312
Parish Priest: Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB
Email: hilarionfernando@yahoo.com
After hours: 0478 909 541
Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com
Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia
Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia
Address: 2 Fagans Road,
Arcadia NSW 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159

For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and
Safeguarding Children matters
Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784
Acct: 100002141 (**NEW BANK DETAILS**)
Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund