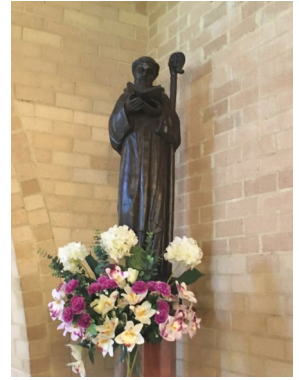


St Benedict's Parish Arcadia

*To desire eternal life with all spiritual longing.
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4*



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

Church Attendance:
*One person per 2sqm,
maximum 300 people.*

MASKS MUST BE WORN
informed by the Bishop.

*No need to book, just write your name
And phone number when you enter
Church after sanitizing and wearing a mask.*



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

19 & 20 December 2020

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
*The kingdom of David will be established for ever
in the sight of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may His will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
You will conceive and bear a son.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

ADVENT WREATH

**Third Candle:**

Symbolizes Peace — with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Introduction**Priest:**

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

(The first, second, third and fourth (peace) candle, *The Angel's Candle*, are now lit by the Acolyte. The fourth candle reminds us that the angels are the messengers of God who, in this case, bring good news.)

Reader:

Lord Jesus, we remember the message of the angels, "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men".

V. Come, Em - man - u - el, R. Come to save us.

V. Be our way and truth, R. Be our light.

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

Reader:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by working for Christ's peace to take root in our family. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

V. Come, bring us your peace, R. Peace we've longed for.

V. Hope of all the earth, R. Be our guide.

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

Gospel reading for this Week

**Luke 1:26-38**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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**Luke 1:26-38**

The Church has always honoured Mary, for she was the first to receive the Good News. Through Mary's "yes," God lived among his people. Mary gave herself completely to the work of the Spirit within her. And, implicitly, she gave herself to the person of her Son and his mission. Her obedience enabled her Son to save all humanity.

Mary is the "mother of Jesus" through her humanity. But, she is truly "Mother of God" because of God's paternity. Mary is the God-bearer ("Theotokos" in Greek), the one who bore the Second Person of the Trinity into the world. In her and through her, the world realised the mystery of the Incarnation, God made flesh.

Catholics have honoured Mary since the beginning of the Church. Do you have a Marian devotion? Have you ever meditated on the meaning of the Hail Mary? How has Mary's "yes" inspired you?

Human honour is, indeed, fleeting. But God's honour stands forever, even in the face of criticism. Mary accepted, even proclaimed, God's will in her life. She placed her future in the hands of the Father. Her example should inspire us to stand firm as Christians in today's ever-changing fads and fancies. Remember, the words of others may sting, but the Spirit of God burns within. The divine fire can withstand the darts others fling toward us.

Reflect on the sacrifice of others so you could receive the faith. Think of your parents and family and friends. How have they withstood criticism and prejudice for your sake? How can you honour them for their "yes?" How can you help pass on the faith, despite the cost?

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT*Chapter 4**To do no wrong to anyone, and to bear patiently wrongs done to oneself.***POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2020****FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER***We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ
be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.***AMEN****CATHOLIC YOUTH BROKEN BAY****A Christmas Pilgrimage**

Catholic Youth Broken Bay invites you to participate in "A Christmas Pilgrimage" this coming Advent season!

"A Christmas Pilgrimage" is a collaboration between St Peter's Catholic College, St Leo's Catholic College, and students, staff and priests from around the Diocese with special guests you will not want to miss! What better way to celebrate the end of a challenging year than by bringing the true meaning of Christmas alive in our Catholic community of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

The pilgrimage will follow the Nativity story in the Gospel of Luke and some of the Gospel of Matthew. We have fantastic Christmas Carols, special reflections, lovely "moving pilgrimage stops", a special version of "Silent Night Invitation" by Father Rob Galea, Natasha and Gary Pinto, and more! Last - and definitely not least - we have "voices of Broken Bay", where throughout the pilgrimage stops we will hear what a number of different students, staff and priests from the Diocese love about Christmas and what the true meaning of Christmas is to them.

The pilgrimage will run for 11 days with a new 10-15 min episode released each day. The start date for Catholic schools will be 1 December whilst for parishes it will be 14 December. This will be a great resource to use each day in preparation for Christmas, or even right after Christmas in preparation for the Epiphany.

So please join us on "A Christmas Pilgrimage" from 14 December and feel free to stream, share and enjoy!

Let us enter into the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, and into the mission of "giving" just as Christ did by helping those in need through our support of St Vincent De Paul's Christmas Appeal.

May God bless us all and our families this Advent and Christmas Season.

December 14 to December 24

Catholic Youth Broken Bay
Facebook & Youtube

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

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

In Our Parish

**We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died,
especially George Cascun and Vince Sellaro.**

We welcome into God's family to all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish.

GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

GLENORIE COMMUNITY CAROLS

The Carols continues in 2020, celebrating everything about Christmas. Join us on the Les Shore Oval at Glenorie 6pm Sunday 20th December.

Bring your picnic rug, your favourite food (I'm thinking antipasto platter) and drink, and your family and join in the fun of carols. You will enjoy the Matt Moody Jazz Band, local singers and artists and of course Santa.

Show your support for your community and join us at the Glenorie Carols. Don't forget your outdoor chairs for a comfortable night. This is a ticketed event and tickets are FREE. Register at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/glenoriecarols>

We look forward to seeing you there.

Roger Hokin
Youth and Young Adults Minister
Dural District Anglican Churches
GCEA Secretary
roger@duralanglican.org.au
0413 067 770

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 and other retreats, go to the following link on our website:

www.jamberooabbey.org.au - click on **Retreats**

ROSTERS

The Roster is available at the Sacristy window for the next quarter plus the 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.

We are also in urgent need of **Saturday night Acolytes** please. If you are interested in becoming an Acolyte please contact Father Bernard.

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

All Scripture (SRE) classes are now finished. Wishing all our Catechists and families a blessed Christmas and a safe and restful holiday season.

God bless,

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



SUMMER NIGHTS 2021 (YOUTH)

The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of COVID, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021.

There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week):

Monday 11 - Wednesday 13 January (3pm to 9pm) &

Thursday 14 - Saturday 16 January (3pm to 9pm)

COVID-safe dinner is provided each day.

For age 16-35 year olds.

The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day.

It will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat centre. A stage will be brought in to hold all the sessions. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community.

For more information and to

Register: www.summerschool.org.au.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA (ACN)



A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*:

Thank you to all the individuals, families and parishes who helped us support suffering and persecuted Catholic communities, particularly in this year of the coronavirus pandemic. We pray that the joy and peace of the Christmas season will refresh all our hearts and prepare us to live our faith into the New Year. www.aidtochurch.org.

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

15 December 2020

Vox Populi - The Voice of the People

The U-Turn

By Rebecca Billing

My entry into Catholicism wasn't my choice. But rather, like many of us, it was the choice of my parents. Baptised at three months old, I went on with my five brothers to attend my local Catholic primary school, Maria Regina, Avalon.

We were a good Catholic family that attended Mass most Sundays. Mum oversaw the children's liturgy each Christmas Eve and with Dad, was heavily involved in St Vincent De Paul Society. As a result, so were we. Each year my family would deliver all the Yellow Pages phone books for Vinnies between Avalon and Mona Vale and as an army of six children, we would run behind my family's hardware delivery truck throwing phone books into each driveway. It was vocation by default rather than by choice.

At high school I was perceived as a good Catholic girl, well behaved (except for talking a little too much... sorry Mr Leaver), high academic achiever, altar server and prefect. I looked and acted the part, but like many teenagers I took what I like to call a "faith break".

It wasn't until my early 20s that my faith U-Turn occurred. My cousin who was the same age as me, passed away from cystic fibrosis. I had a faith-filled moment when I realised where I needed to be and what I needed to be doing. So, I quit my job as an investment banker that day and enrolled in teaching at university. Life was too short to be doing something that didn't make me happy and I wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Since beginning teaching, I haven't looked back. I genuinely come to work happy every day. This time my vocation is not by default but rather it is being guided by faith. I have the absolute privilege of witnessing the likeness of Jesus every day in the children I teach. More importantly I have the honour of guiding my students through their own faith journey. There are ups and downs and bumps along the way, that's life. By connecting with each one of them I feel that I am making a difference, no matter how small, to guide them in their own faith journey - to make wise choices, treat others the way I want to be treated, trust God no matter what, and know that he will never stop loving me.

Now that I'm an adult, I have made a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ. It's no longer the faith of my parents, but a faith that I am proudly able to call my own. I have a relationship with God that I express through quiet prayer and meditation. I also feel most connected when I'm alone in nature. The stillness is always something that really resonates with me. We spend time as a family praying before dinner. It's our way to come together and give thanks.

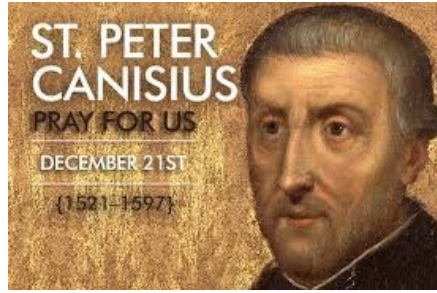
This year has particularly been challenging for our students and families. Not able to look outward to our local parish for faith, we have had to instead go back into ourselves and find who we are in a different way. With churches closed, our students have had to look to God's creation as a sacred space, and we have held many a prayer session out in nature. We have had to connect with our families and communities in different ways. This is what I call the UTurn of 2020.

The U-Turn in me started with the faith that my family gave me and now I'm passing the same thing to my own children and the students in my school.

Our faith is always with us. There may be times in our journey when we stray, but I have learnt that we are never alone. We have family, friends and God in our hearts. He never leaves us, no matter what. Everyone has a stop sign, everyone has a give-way, and everyone can find their U-Turn.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor



1521-1597

Feast Day: December 21

Patron Saint of Germany

Peter Canisius was born in the Netherlands and attended the University of Cologne. During his studies, he prayed at a Carthusian monastery and came to know one of the very first Jesuits. After a period of discernment, he joined the Society of Jesus. He was ordained a priest in 1546 and just one year later participated in a session of the Council of Trent in the employ of a German bishop. Soon after this experience at the highest level of Church life, Peter was sent by Saint Ignatius of Loyola to teach at a minor Jesuit college, a test of Peter's obedience. This ministry was short-lived, as Peter's erudition and skills were destined to have a wider scope.

Peter was a working, teaching, preaching scholar who did all things well. He edited the works of Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Pope Saint Leo the Great, and Saint Jerome. He wrote over eight thousand pages of letters to people of every rank of society. His refinements of his popular catechisms never ceased, and he worked for years with other scholars to compose a work on Church history to counter a popular Protestant history book which twisted the truth of Catholicism's role in European history. Peter's life was spent crisscrossing Central Europe in an era fraught with religious tension. The concussive force of the Protestant Reformation stunned the cerebellum of Central Europe for decades. Shock, confusion, and violence spread outward from Germany in wave after confusing wave. Peter and many others slowly helped Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Bohemia to recover their mental health and to remain true to their historic Catholic identity.

Peter was in Vienna, where the people and princes wanted him to stay and be their bishop. But Saint Ignatius, his superior, said no, Peter's skills were needed elsewhere. Then Peter was in Prague, starting Jesuit colleges, preaching to empty churches and, in the end, winning the day. Then Peter was in Bavaria, then Switzerland, and then Poland. His zeal, learning, and holiness were self-evident. He held blameless the majority of Protestants, who were such out of ignorance or apathy. He reserved his rare invective only for the heresiarchs themselves, and for other intellectuals who should have known better. He distinguished between those who were willful apostates and those who were the victims of circumstances. Peter Canisius was a perpetual storm who rained down knowledge, apologetics, books, sermons, and letters over all of Central Europe. He brought calm and moderation to a violent, fevered time. One biographer estimates Peter traveled twenty thousand miles on foot and horseback over a period of thirty years to further his apostolic labors. Peter Canisius was canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church on the same day in 1925.

*Saint Peter, God raised you up at the right time to save the faith in Central Europe. Your even temper, broad knowledge, life of prayer, and personal virtue brought lost sheep back into the fold. From heaven, help all priests, deacons, and teachers to do the same. **AMEN.***

Source of content: mycatholic.life

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 & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December 2020: 7pm & 11.30pm (*Midnight Mass*)
Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 9am
25th December 2020: 10.30am (*Latin Mass*)
(Please note there will be no 7pm Mass Friday 25th December)
New Years Day: 1st January 2021: 7pm

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 7am
New Year Day: 1st January 2021: 7am



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Please write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries.
Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 2sqms 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

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia
Facebook: [stbenedictsarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsarcadia)
Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd,
Arcadia 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159
Good Samaritan Sisters: 9653 1231

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

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: 1446 8001