

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



18 & 19 December 2021
Fourth 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

PARISH CONFIRMATION DAY



Saturday 18th December 2021
Congratulations to all the children
who received the Sacrament of
Confirmation!

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.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NATIVITY

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The 25th day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chalades; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

(From the Roman Missal, Third Edition, Appendix I)

First Reading*Micah 5:1- 4 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel;

his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

*The word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.****Second Reading***Hebrews 10:5-10 (JB)*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

*The word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.**Alleluia!****GOSPEL***Luke 1:39-44 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

LUKE 1:39-45

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, . . . from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:2)

Did you know that there are more than three hundred verses in the Old Testament pointing to Jesus as the Messiah? In today's first reading, for instance, the prophet Micah says that a great ruler will come from Bethlehem, the village where David was born (5:2). That aligns with other prophecies that the Messiah would come from the line of David (2 Samuel 7:16; Isaiah 11:1).

Yet Micah's words, and so many other prophecies, were written centuries before Jesus was born. For the Jews of Jesus' time, living under Roman occupation, that was a long time of waiting, watching, and praying for God to fulfill his promises.

But now the wait is over, and Mary and Elizabeth know it. That's why, in today's Gospel, they are so joyful. Elizabeth greets Mary with a loud cry, and even the young John the Baptist leaps with joy in her womb (Luke 1:44).

Maybe for you, Advent has seemed like a long time of waiting. Maybe you've been waiting for Jesus to speak to you, and you hear nothing but silence. Maybe you've been waiting a long time for him to answer a prayer, and you want to be reassured that he hears you. Maybe your waiting will continue, even after Advent is over.

Unlike the Jews before Jesus' coming, you don't have to wait for the Messiah to appear. And whatever else you are waiting for, you don't have to wait for him to draw close to you. He loves you so much that he offers you his own Body and Blood in the Eucharist. This is what he came to do—to save you and unite himself to you.

So even if you find yourself still waiting on the Lord, know that he always fulfills his promises. Today he is waiting for you to receive him, and that alone is reason to rejoice!

"Lord, fill me with joy, today and at your coming on Christmas Day."

(Source: Word Among Us, India pg. 22).

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	December 21, 2021:	St Peter Canisius, priest, doctor
Thursday	December 23, 2021:	St John of Kanty, priest

Source: Ordo 2021

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MESSAGE

To St Benedict's Catholic Parish Arcadia.

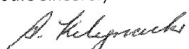
On behalf of the members of St Vincent de Paul Broken Bay we wish to thank you most sincerely for your support.

COVID has been a very difficult time; we needed to find different ways of helping and assisting our families and homeless persons. We managed by dropping food parcels and food vouchers to letterboxes and front door steps. Our homeless people, we were able to hand out hot meals for them through the doors.

During the month of November we assisted 20 homeless people, 18 families; two persons were running from domestic violence with just the clothes they were wearing. With our domestic violence persons we supported them by fully furnishing apartments for them and providing clothing, food etc for them. Over 600 meals were handed out to our families and our homeless persons during the month. High rents and jobs losses due to COVID has resulted in our families needing more support. Approximately \$ 29 .000 .00 was spent on clients during the month of November. Without the support of our churches and schools we would not be able to carry on our work.

Thank you for your support for our families and homeless persons.

Yours sincerely



Shirley Kelnack OAM (Regional President Hornsby)

Thank you all so much for your kind donations. Just to let you know that the poor boxes at both entries are not secure, so if you would like to donate to St Vinnies please place your donations in the envelopes provided and place it in the collection basket. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To fulfil God's commandments daily in one's deeds.

PARISH FUNDS

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the parish by helping out in the past few months. 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!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Last Sunday Sonya Saliba received her First Holy Communion at St Benedict's Parish.

As you commemorate the love of Jesus for the World through the sacrament of the Holy Communion, we pray that the peace of Christ be always with you and that you will forever be blessed as you continue to trust God and grow in His grace.

Congratulations Sonya!



REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Emanuele Monardo. Our deepest condolences to all his family and friends. He will be truly missed.

Emanuele Filaberto Monardo

Entered Eternal Life

16 December 2021



**Eternal rest grant to him O Lord,
and let the perpetual light shine upon him,
May he Rest In Peace.**

FRESH FLOWERS

Christmas flowers and decorations will be arranged on the Thursday 23rd of December after the 9.30am Mass. You are welcome to supply flowers and help arrange them.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Facilitated by Dr Sandie Cornish, the Broken Bay Institute is offering an on-line course in social justice teachings. The course runs over 16 weeks and is very reasonably priced at \$310 plus GST.

This course would be useful for anyone who works in, or has an interest in, social justice ministry.

If the fee presents a challenge, please email [Emma Baker](mailto:Emma.Baker@bbi.edu.au).

The Broken Bay Diocese is offering to contribute towards the cost of the course for those who have a desire to enrol but may not have the financial capacity at present.

[Download registration form](#)



In Our Parish

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

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



ROSTERS

PLEASE COLLECT THE
DECEMBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2022
QUARTER ROSTER FROM THE SACRISTY.

**LAST CALL — PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME DOWN
FOR THE NEW YEAR ROSTER AT THE SACRISTY
WINDOW.**

Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please fill in
your names for the times you are available.

**A big thank you to Jo Cali for your hard work with
the PowerPoint screens every week and the
wonderful musicians and singers!**

PALMS AUSTRALIA

CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING

Palms Australia is an international aid and development agency that supports community development around the world by sending skilled volunteers to share their skills alongside the local people. The Australian national office is based in Sydney, and they have placed volunteers with communities and organisations in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, South America and in Indigenous communities in Australia.

Palms Australia is offering the ***Neighbours Without Borders*** cross-cultural training course on 9-13 January 2022.

Neighbours Without Borders delivers tailored intercultural training to develop the awareness, knowledge and skills needed to interact appropriately and effectively within culturally diverse communities. The sessions provide a framework that can be applied to improve our understanding of work cultures, religious cultures, the cultures of different generations, or any sub-culture one needs to understand.

As such, the course would be suitable for greater awareness and understanding of cultures within a parish context, for both clergy or parishioners.

Please consider whether this course may be suitable for your parish.

It is possible to attend only Day 1 and/or Day 2, depending on the requirements of the participant.

If someone from your community would like to take up this course as part of a **Diocesan pilot** to further assess its use across the Diocese, please contact [Pina Bernard](#) via email or [0432 682 239](tel:0432682239).

[Download further information](#)
[Download registration form](#)



**Please note the parish office will be closed
during Christmas and New Year's. For anything
urgent contact Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.**

CATECHIST NEWS

Congratulations to all children who received their Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend!

Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas filled with God's blessings and love, may you have the opportunity to share Christmas with family and friends.

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>)

If you are planning for next year and have an hour free on Wednesdays or Fridays during school term and are interested in finding out more about sharing your faith with young people, you are very welcome to either email me or call the parish office. There are vacancies for Catechists (Scripture teachers) available for next year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

God bless,

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

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2021 FOR CATECHISTS

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



CCC PRAYER GROUP

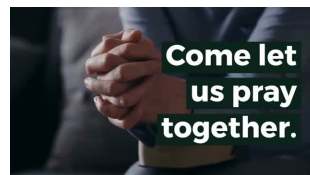
Prayer meeting held every

Friday nights:
after 7pm Mass

Wednesday mornings:
after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.



ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

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



ADVENT WREATH

Fourth 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.

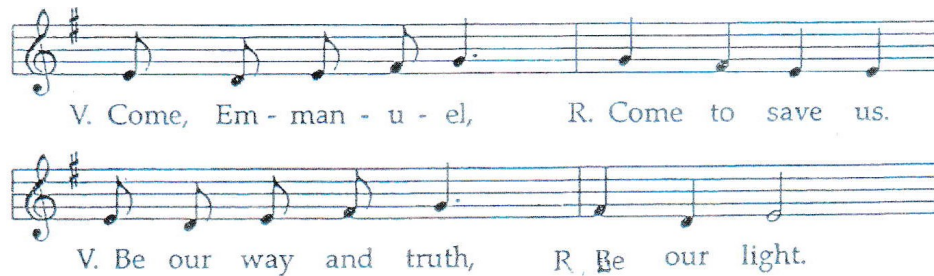
All: Amen

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:

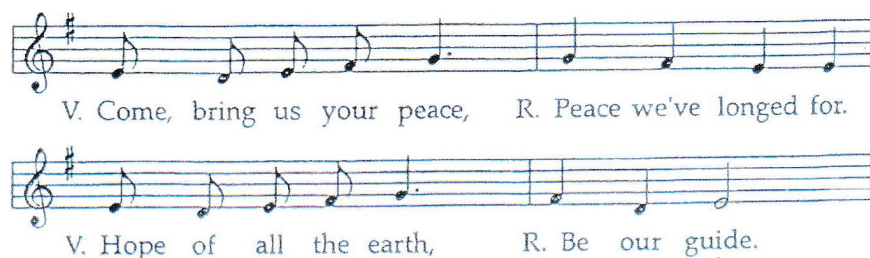
Lord Jesus, we remember the message of the angels, "Peace on earth and goodwill to all men".



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.



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



SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Peter Canisius **Priest and Doctor** **C. 1521-1597**



Feast Day: December 21

Patron Saint of Germany

A zealous Jesuit is the tip of the Counter-Reformation spear in Central Europe

The deep impact of today's saint so shook Germany that the reverberations of his work were still being felt centuries after his death. Saint Peter Canisius composed question and answer German-language catechisms for every educational level. These catechisms were clear, scriptural, and of the purest doctrine. Hundreds of editions were printed during his own lifetime and for centuries afterwards. Pope Benedict XVI, a German, said that in his father's generation in the last half of the nineteenth century, a catechism in Germany was still known simply as "the Canisius." This was three hundred years after Peter Canisius had died! If Saint Boniface was the Apostle of Germany in the eighth century, then Saint Peter Canisius was the Catechist of Germany in the sixteenth.

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: mycatholic.life

BLESSING BEFORE A CHRISTMAS STABLE

Father Peter John Cameron, O.P.

"No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a new-born child." (CCC 563)

Lord Jesus, as I kneel before your manger in adoration, let my first Christmas word be: *thank you*. Thank you, Gift of the Father, for coming to save me from my sins.

Without you I do not know even how to be human. The characteristics of your human body express the divine Person of God's Son. And in that wondrous expression, Lord, you reveal me to myself. Thank you for that saving revelation in your sacred humanity. As the Christmas liturgy proclaims, in Christ we experience "the holy exchange that restores our life". Thank you for coming as one like myself to save me from myself. **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th Dec 2021: 7pm & 11.30pm (*Midnight Mass*)

Christmas Day Saturday 25th Dec 2021: 9am

25th Dec 2021: 10.30am (*Latin Mass*)

25th Dec 2021: 7pm (*Vigil feast of The Holy Family*)

Sunday 26th Dec 2021: 9am & 10.30am Feast of Holy Family

New Years Day Saturday 1st Jan 2022: 9.30am Feast Mary Mother of God
7pm Vigil Mass for Epiphany

Sunday 2nd Jan 2022: 9am & 10.30am Feast of Epiphany

Sunday 9th Jan 2022: 9am & 10.30am Feast Baptism of the Lord

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th Dec 2021: 7am

New Year Day Saturday 1st Jan 2022: 7am



COVID 19 SAFETY RULES UPDATED

Please continue to use QR CODE or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at entries.

**IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME AND ISOLATE.**

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: ***VARIES DURING DECEMBER & JANUARY. For anything urgent call Fr Hilarion on his mobile.***

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

Email: hilarionfernando@yahoo.com

After hours: 0478 909 541 (Fr Hilarion)

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

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

Monastery: 9653 1159

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784

Acct: 100002141 (**NEW BANK DETAILS**)

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