

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

YEAR A

MARCH 28 & 29 2026



### HOLY WEEK PARISH MASS TIMES

Monday to Wednesday 9:30am

Holy Thursday  
The Lords Supper 7:30pm

Fridays Stations of the Cross 10:30am  
(Confessions afterwards)

Friday of the Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

Saturday Easter Vigil 7:30pm  
Easter Sunday 9:00am & 10:30am (LATIN)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses:  
Sundays 7:00am  
Daily 7:00am  
(except Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday)

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

*Baptisms  
Reconciliation  
For the Sick  
Marriages  
Funerals*

Contact:  
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233  
Parish Office 9653 2312



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Six days before the Passover,  
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,  
the children ran to meet him;  
in their hands they carried palm branches  
and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is this king of glory?

He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you,  
who have come in your abundant mercy!

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to  
follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the  
Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of  
patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

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

Amen.



**First Reading****Isaiah 50:4-7 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my Face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

**Second Reading****Philippians 2:6-11 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

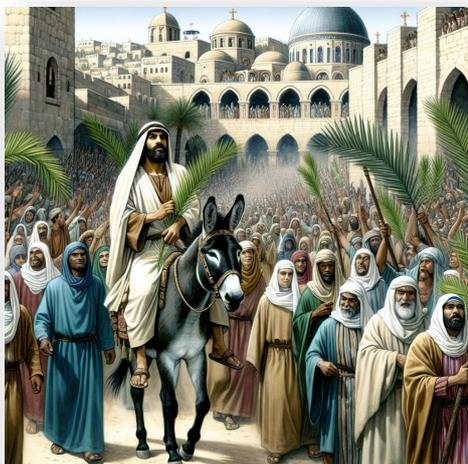
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL****Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 (JB)**

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

**DRAMATIZED  
GOSPEL**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

***“Listen carefully, my child, to the master’s instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart.”  
— Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue 1***

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**  
**Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion - Year A**  
**Gospel Mathew 21:1-11**  
**Isaiah 50:4-7**  
**Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24**  
**Philippians 2:6-11**  
**Matthew 26:14–27:66**

***Who is this? (Matthew 21:10)***

*Who is this*, who enters the holy city “meek and riding on an ass” (Matthew 21:5)? This is “Jesus the prophet from Galilee” (21:11), a wonderworker who preaches the good news of the kingdom of God. Today at Mass, we cry out with the crowd: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (21:9-10).

*Who is this*, who consecrates bread and wine so that it becomes his Body and Blood and then offers himself for our forgiveness (Matthew 26:27-28)? This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who enters our lives every time we receive him in the Eucharist.

*Who is this*, who in the Garden of Gethsemane prays to his Father, “Let this cup pass from me,” and then surrenders to his Father’s will (Matthew 26:39)? This is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine, who understands our suffering because he himself has suffered.

*Who is this*, who refuses to defend himself when accused of blasphemy (Matthew 26:63-65)? This is the One who is “seated at the right hand of the Power” and “coming on the clouds of heaven” (26:64), the One we will one day meet face-to-face in all his glory.

*Who is this*, who is mocked and spat upon and hailed as “King of the Jews” (Matthew 27:29)? This is the King of the universe, and our King, too. May he reign in our lives more and more each day!

*Who is this*, who is beaten, whipped, and crucified, and who cries out and then gives up his spirit (Matthew 27:46-50)? “This [is] truly the Son of God!” (27:54), who loved us so much that he took our sins upon himself to save us.

*Who is this*, whose battered body is laid in a tomb (Matthew 27:60)? This is Christ the Lord, who will burst from the grave on the third day and defeat sin and death forever. May he be forever praised!

***“Jesus, as I begin this Holy Week, may I come to know you ever more deeply.”***

Source: Word Among Us India Apr-May23 pg.2

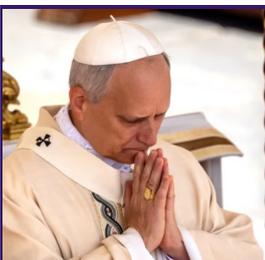


**HOLY THURSDAY**—Mass of the Lord’s Supper (gift of the Holy Eucharist & Priesthood).  
**PARISH: 7.30PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY** of the **PASSION** of the **LORD** (Day of fasting and abstinence).  
**STATIONS of the CROSS - PARISH: 10.30AM** (*Confessions after service*)

**PASSION of the LORD - PARISH: 3PM**  
**HOLY SATURDAY**—Easter Vigil.  
**PARISH: 7.30PM** (*followed by supper*)

**EASTER SUNDAY** of the **RESURRECTION** of the **LORD**.  
**MONASTERY: 7AM**  
**PARISH: 9AM & 10.30AM (LATIN)**



**POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2026**

**For priests in crisis**

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



ST BENEDICT'S ARCADIA CATHOLIC PARISH

### NOTICES

- Parish Country Fete Postponement to the 31st of May. Raffle tickets still valid.
- Need Fete volunteers for Gift Boxes Stall as well as relieving other volunteers temporarily so they can take a break and enjoy the fete as well.
- We need more volunteers to help with morning tea after the 9am Masses.
- We still need a piano player to be on roster for morning masses.

Contact the parish office for more details.

### EASTER VIGIL 7.30PM

Following the Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm, we will be gathering for supper.

If you are able to bring a plate to share, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

### PRAYER REQUEST



Prayers for the repose of **PELLEGRINO VACCARELLA**



On his 1 year anniversary on the 28th March 2026

Our prayers and thoughts are with Caterina and family. May he rest in peace.



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

### PLEASE BRING BACK YOUR DONATION BOXES.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the **donation boxes, envelopes** or by scanning the **QR code**. Or online at:

[www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

### DAYLIGHT SAVING REMINDER

Don't forget - daylight saving ends on Easter Sunday, 5 April at 3:00am!

Turn your clocks back one hour, enjoy an extra hour of sleep... and don't be late to Mass!

## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

### MICHAEL LAGOS

This week we celebrate Michael Lagos!

Michael generously helps with any computer or internet issues at our parish at no charge. Your dedication and kindness are truly a blessing to our parish community. God bless you Michael!



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

### MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL

**Christians in the Middle East are facing untold danger as conflict and bombings escalate.**

As airstrikes intensify across Lebanon, "the situation is overwhelmingly bad," says Marielle Boutros, ACN's project coordinator in Beirut. Missiles are striking. Entire communities are fleeing. More than **one million people have been displaced.**

And the Church, once again, is opening her doors to all in need.

Over **550 shelters** have opened, from schools to church facilities, housing families who have nowhere else to go. Many thousands are living on the streets.

Parishes, convents, and Church-run institutions are doing everything they can...

- sheltering the displaced
  - providing food, water, and medicine
  - offering prayer and spiritual support
- ... but their resources are stretched to the limit.

<https://aidtochurch.org/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

## In Our Parish

*(please let us know if you would like someone added here)*

**We welcome into God's family all who were recently baptised and for our future Catechumen Nicholas.**

**We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially:**

*Kath Moran, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.*

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

*Charles Zady, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappalardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella ~ May they rest in Peace.*



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Congratulations to the children who have received their first Reconciliation on Friday.

Jesus searches for us when we go astray and brings us back home with joy. May you know the greatness of God's love and forgiveness on this special day.

**OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM** will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in October 2026.

Please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list.

*In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is: Confirmation, Reconciliation, then Eucharist. Children are usually prepared for these Sacraments in Year 3 and 4.*

## DRAFT ROSTER

The draft roster is now **on the sacristy window**. Please take a moment to **check your name** and make any necessary changes.

## EASTER DRAFT ROSTER

The **Holy Week draft roster** is also now available at the **sacristy window**.

Please help us out by **adding your name** where you are able to assist. Your support is greatly appreciated as we prepare for this important week!

## HEALING MASS



Healing Mass is held on the first Thursday of each month at 9.30am

**NEXT HEALING MASS:  
THURSDAY 9TH OF APRIL 2026**

## ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8–12 years  
Our Kids Youth Group is back on Fridays!  
4.00pm to 5.30pm

**YOUTH GROUP HAS FINISHED FOR THE TERM**

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm**.  
Everyone welcome.



For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

## CCC PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meeting held every  
**Wednesday morning:**  
after 9.30am Mass.

*Come and meet new people and  
have a cuppa!*

For more details call  
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

## CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

First term is rapidly coming to an end, with this week being the final week of term. Term 2 will resume the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> April. Wishing all families and Catechists a blessed and holy Easter and holiday break.

The final week in the free Ministry Induction training for new Catechists will be held this week. This week's topic is 'Lesson Planning Using Digital Resources' via face-to-face and Zoom.

Please continue to keep our Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers in this final week and over the school holidays. There are prayer cards at the church entrances you may wish to take home.

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

God bless,  
Miriam Brown [srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



**St Benedict's  
Country Fete**  
**Sunday 31 May 2026**  
2 FAGANS ROAD ARCADIA PH: 9653 2312

**10am to 3pm**

Fruit & Veggie Stall • Chocolate Wheel • Raffle  
Dev Tea • BBQ • Gifts • Coffee • Cakes • Lolly Stall  
Hot Dogs • Pop Corn • Gelato • Face Painting  
Flowers • Crafts • Plants • Rides & lots more...

## PIETY SHOP NEWS

**Support the Carmelite Nuns  
Visit the Piety Shop!**

We are excited to let you know that a **wider variety of stock** of Little Saints by Norma (plush dolls, keyrings, Bible Verse cards and plaques).

**Keep an eye out for T-shirts and hoodies coming soon!**

Please **come in and browse**, knowing that your purchases **help our parish community**. Every item you buy makes a difference!



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY MEDIA RELEASE

25 March 2026

### POPE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP ANTHONY RANDAZZO DD JCL

#### ARCHBISHOP AND PREFECT OF VATICAN DICASTERY

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed the Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo DD JCL, until now Bishop of Broken Bay and Apostolic Administrator of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia, as Prefect of the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, with the personal title of Archbishop.

Archbishop Randazzo, who has served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay for the past six and a half years, will take up his role in the Roman Curia when he moves to the Vatican in three months.

Until that time he will be the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

The Dicastery for Legislative Texts serves the Roman Pontiff in promoting and safeguarding the proper understanding, interpretation, and application of canon law across the universal Church. Its responsibilities extend to both the Latin Church and the Eastern Catholic Churches, ensuring that ecclesiastical laws are applied with fidelity, clarity, and juridical precision.

As Prefect, Archbishop Randazzo will oversee the Dicastery's work in formulating authentic interpretations of universal Church law, offering authoritative clarifications on juridical questions, and assisting in the development and refinement of canonical legislation. He will also guide collaboration with other dicasteries, episcopal conferences, and canonists worldwide to ensure coherence and integrity in the Church's legal framework.

"I am profoundly grateful to Pope Leo for the confidence and trust he has placed in me," Archbishop Randazzo, 59 and a canon law graduate of the Pontifical Gregorian University, said.

"During my time as bishop of the Diocese of Broken Bay the clergy and faithful have been a true joy in my episcopal ministry. I remain forever grateful to God, who entrusted me with the care of His flock.

"It has also been both a privilege and a joy to walk the journey of faith with the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia, an experience that has embodied the reality of lived ecumenism."

Archbishop Randazzo recently met with Pope Leo XIV in Rome after being stranded in Dubai along with hundreds of other people as a result of the Middle East conflict.

During the next three months Archbishop Randazzo, the fourth bishop of Broken Bay, will preside at the upcoming Chrism Mass and Holy Week Liturgies.

He will also undertake a number of scheduled engagements as the Diocese celebrates its 40th anniversary. Next month on 21 April in Perth he will ordain two men to the Diaconate of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, and in the Diocese on 29 April he will ordain three Deacons to the Priesthood.

On 28 May Archbishop Randazzo will celebrate Mass with clergy and the faithful marking the establishment of the Diocese in 1986 and the installation of its inaugural bishop, Bishop Patrick Murphy. The following evening the Diocese will mark the 40th anniversary with a dinner and presentation of the Diocesan Awards.

In accepting this appointment, Archbishop Randazzo assumes leadership of a Dicastery with a rich historical development. Originating in the early 20th century with commissions established to interpret and revise the Code of Canon Law, the body evolved through successive reforms under several pontificates. Most recently, under Pope Francis' Apostolic Constitution *Praedicate Evangelium* (2022), it was reconstituted as a Dicastery, continuing and expanding its vital mission within the Roman Curia.

It is anticipated an Administrator will be appointed to the Diocese of Broken Bay when Archbishop Randazzo takes up his role at the Vatican until the Holy See announces the new Bishop.



APRIL 1ST

Dear Father Michael,

With great joy and gratitude, we wish you a very happy 80th birthday.

We thank God for the gift that you are to our parish and to all who have been blessed by your ministry. Your wisdom, kindness, and faithful service have touched so many lives, often in quiet and humble ways that will never be forgotten.

On this special milestone, we pray that the Lord continues to bless you abundantly with good health, peace, and deep joy. May you feel surrounded by the love and appreciation of all whose lives you have enriched.

Thank you for your dedication, your guidance, and your unwavering faith. You are truly a blessing to us all.

With heartfelt prayers and warmest wishes,  
St Benedict's Parish community

Please join us to celebrate Fr Michael's 80th Birthday

Sunday 19th April at the 9:00am Parish Mass

Followed by cake cutting afterwards

All are warmly welcome!

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

4/4/2026 TO 5/4/2026

## EASTER ROSTERS

SEE SEPARATE ROSTERS FOR:

# Easter Triduum



- HOLY THURSDAY
- GOOD FRIDAY
- EASTER VIGIL
- EASTER SUNDAY

**EASTER WEEKEND ROSTER WILL BE POSTED  
OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY WINDOW.**



### SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

*St Benedict's Parish is committed to the safety of all, especially children and vulnerable people. Concerns? Contact Fr Shansana 0437 884 233, or the Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.*

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

## MONASTERY CHAPEL

### Liturgy of the Hours

*"Seven times a day I will praise you"*

Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

**5.45am** Office of Readings  
**6.30am** Morning prayer - Lauds  
**12.45pm** Midday prayer  
**6.00pm** Evening prayer - Vespers  
**8.00pm** Night prayer - Compline  
ALL are welcome to attend any time.

## HOLY WEEK EASTER MASS TIMES

### Holy Thursday - The Lord's Supper 2 April 2026

Parish 7.30pm  
(Monastery no morning Mass)

### Stations of the Cross - Good Friday 3 April 2026

Parish 10.30am  
(Monastery no morning Mass)

### Passion of the Lord - Good Friday 3 April 2026

Parish 3.00pm

### Easter Vigil Saturday 4 April 2026

Parish 7.30pm

### Easter Sunday 5 April 2026

Monastery 7.00am  
Parish 9.00am  
Latin 10.30am

## DID YOU KNOW...

On Palm Sunday, churches often bless palms, which are then taken home by the faithful as a reminder of Christ's victory and a symbol of peace and eternal life.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays & Fridays:** 9.00am to 2.00pm  
**Parish Office:** 02 9653 2312  
**Address:** 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159  
**Email:** [arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com)  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233  
**Facebook:** stbenedictsarcadia



**MONASTERY:** 02 9653 1159  
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

**PARISH BANK DETAILS for  
ONLINE only donations:**  
**BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141**  
**Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:**  
**CBA—Catholic Development Fund**

**Support our parish!**  
Scan this QR code to make a donation.

