

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## HOLY WEEK PARISH MASS TIMES

**THERE WILL NOT BE WEEKDAY MORNING  
MASSES THIS HOLY WEEK ON THURSDAY  
& FRIDAY, BOTH AT THE PARISH AND  
MONASTERY.**

### Weekdays:

Monday to Wednesday 9:30am

Maundy Thursday The Lords Supper 7.30pm

Friday Stations of the Cross 10.30am  
Friday of the Passion of the Lord 3.00pm  
Confession 4.30pm

Saturday Easter Vigil 7.30pm  
Easter Sunday Mass 9.00am  
Latin 10.30am

## MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am  
Daily 7:00am (except Holy Week Thu & Fri)

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

**BAPTISMS  
RECONCILIATION  
FOR THE SICK  
MARRIAGES  
FUNERALS**

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD YEAR B

**23 & 24 MARCH 2024**

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches,  
went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying:  
Hosanna in the highest.

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

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.

### SELF REFLECTION: FAITHFULNESS

#### Sundays' Gospel narration, Mark 14:1 - 15:47:

Palm Sunday is the start of the Holy Week, the week that  
changed the world. Sunday's Gospel narration begins with  
Jesus entering Jerusalem beginning with Hosannas and  
ending with "Crucify Him". It is a story of his betrayal, deceit  
and treachery. It contrasts the faithlessness of the disciples  
with Jesus' faithfulness.

When everything is going well for us, it's a "Hosanna" from  
us; but when we are going through a down side of life, we  
cry, "Crucify Him".

- Where in my life could I be more faithful in the face of suffering?
- What do I find challenging in the suffering?
- How do I respond to unfair suffering or persecution?
- Do I have faithlessness or faithfulness in Jesus?

GREAT IS THY  
*Faithfulness*

Lord,

Help me to be more faithful when I am suffering. Help  
me to speak up when I see suffering or persecution  
around me. Help me to always be faithful to you. I place  
all my trust in you. 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.

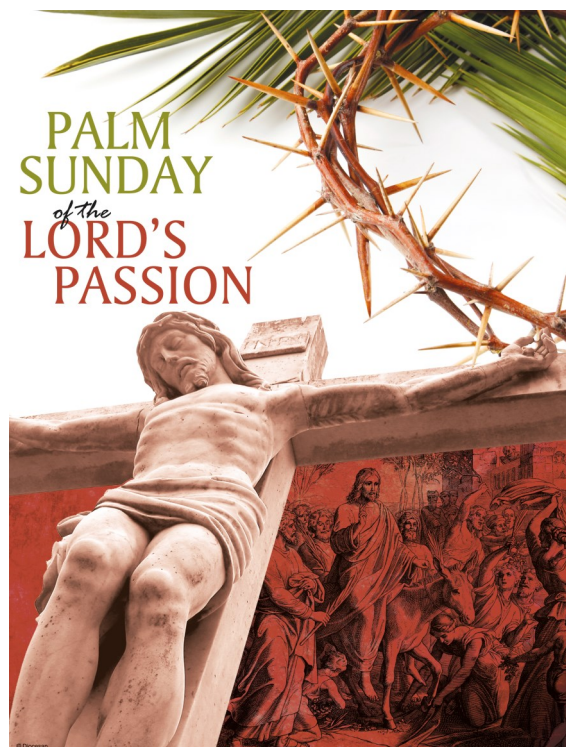
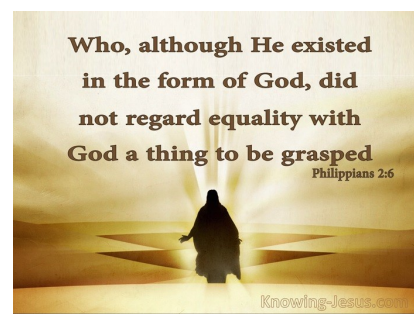
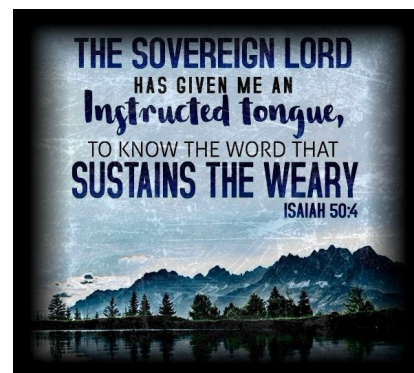
**The word of the Lord.****Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation**

**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: Mark 14:1 - 15:47 (JB)**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

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

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-10

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

*Hosanna! (Mark 11:9)*

The two Gospel readings today can give us emotional whiplash. As Mass begins, we hear the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We may even wave our own palm branches and join the crowd in shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9). Then, in the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Mark's passion account. Once again, we join our voices with the crowd—but this time, we cry out, "Crucify him!" (15:13). How jarring!

Why does the Church have us play a role in both of these readings as we begin Holy Week?

It's all for one purpose: so that we can grasp more fully what Jesus did for the crowds back then—and for us. As we will see throughout Holy Week, he accepted the suffering set before him and freely offered himself for his people, regardless of how they responded. Whether they acclaimed or condemned him, he loved them just the same. And that's how he loves us.

Jesus is not put off by our fickleness. That's good news! Because, if we're honest, we can all recognize times when our own commitment to the Lord, and our love for him, has wavered. When life is going well, it's not so hard to praise him. But it can be another story altogether when danger threatens or sadness darkens our outlook.

So allow these passages to motivate you pay attention to this final week in Christ's life. Acknowledge the inconstancy of your own love for Jesus and ask him to strengthen you. But don't stop there! Open your heart to the liberating truth that Jesus loves you even when you stray. Look at the cross and believe that he held you close to his heart throughout his passion, death, and resurrection.

May the Lord pour out graces on us all during this most holy week of the year!

***"Lord, prepare me to receive you more deeply as I prepare for the feast of your resurrection!"***

Source: Word Among Us India

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK

### MARCH

Monday 25 Readings: Is 42:1-7. Jn 12:1-11.  
**R:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Tuesday 26 Readings: Is 49:1-6. Jn 13:21-33, 36-38.  
**R:** I will sing of your salvation.

Wednesday 27 Readings: Is 50:4-9. Mt 26:14-25.  
**R:** Lord, in your great love, answer me.

### THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday 28 Readings: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14. 1 Cor 11:23-26. Jn 13:1-15  
**R:** Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.

### FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Friday 29 Readings: Is 52:13-53:12. Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9. Jn 18:1-19:42.  
**R:** Father, I put my life in your hands.

### EASTER VIGIL

Saturday 30 Multiple readings...



Source: Ordo 2024

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2024



### FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



## ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE



### SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 7 APRIL 10AM TO 3PM

If any local businesses or entrepreneurs would like to hold a stall please let us know.

We need donations of **fresh flowers** on the **day before the fete** please.

We also need **NEW gifts** for chocolate wheel.

We are still in need of **good quality items**, please NO ELECTRICAL GOODS unless brand new in their original boxes. Loose items need to be in boxes. If you have any unwanted new gifts that would be great too.

**Raffle tickets** are now available to collect at both entries of the church. If you wish to have more please call Tania call on: 0401 597 278

We have fantastic prizes this year! We appreciate all the parishioners and local shops who donated the gifts. Also we would like to thank in advance all the parishioners who will help sell the tickets! Tickets are \$3.00 each, \$30 per book.

**The raffle will be drawn at 2pm at the Fete Sunday, 7<sup>TH</sup> April 2024. Good Luck!**

## CAKE STALL FETE 2024

**Calling out to all our wonderful cooks in our parish!**

We need your **CAKES, SLICES, BISCUITS, MUFFINS**, whatever you love to cook.

We are missing Lyla Abood who was our biggest contributor to the cake stall since the very beginning. So in Lyla's memory I will keep our cake stall running, but I need your help!

If you think you could help out on the day, please ring Bernadette Watt on 0409 297 740.

Anything made for the Cake Stall could be dropped off on the morning of the fete. If you could list the ingredients and products used for allergy or intolerances that would be greatly appreciated.



## FETE RAFFLE TICKETS

Please **bring back your raffle tickets** that are sold as soon as possible to the parish office or to Father Shansana. **More tickets** are available from the Church entries.

There are separate raffle tickets for the **CALF**, kindly donated by the Monastery. The tickets are \$10 each and available from parish office, sacristy office or both entries of the Church. Otherwise tickets will be sold and drawn on the fete day.



## FETE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**We still need volunteers for carpark attendants.**

**We also need volunteers for setting up the fete stalls and chairs on Saturday the 6th at 3pm.**

**Please help! Contact Fr Shansana or the parish office.**

## FETE MONETARY

We encourage you to *bring cash* on the day to spend at our stalls.

## 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.**

**We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Helen Facione, Matthew Eddington (Angela Scotti's nephew), Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.**

**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, May they rest in Peace.**



## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



**ROBIN BARBARA**

Thank you for your awesome hard work for the fete along with all the committee members running around getting everything organised. God bless you in all you do for our parish especially the decluttering!

*Who would you like to nominate for next week? Please let us know so we can acknowledge their kindness.*

## ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-12yr olds** is in the pipeline!



Our anticipated start is April/May. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

**Volunteers aged 14-16yrs** who would like to assist us please let Father Shansana or Paula know.

## CHRISM MASS



The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony

Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our Diocese.

## CRAFT GROUP



The quilting group will meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room. Everyone welcome!



## CCC PRAYER GROUP

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

**Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!**  
For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Reminder - Term 1 (and SRE/Scripture classes) continues this year after Easter and finishes on Friday 12 April.

Free ongoing training for Catechists with full Authorisation – Teaching Discipleship in the 21st Century – Monday 15th April 6:30pm-8:30pm via Zoom or Tuesday 16th April 10am – 12:30pm at Pennant Hills.

RSVP registrations@bbccatholic.org.au

If you would like to keep our Catechists in prayer, there are prayer cards, at the church entrances, to take home.

## WISHING EVERYONE A VERY BLESSED EASTER!

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



## St Leo's Catholic College Wahroonga



## 2024 OPEN EVENING

**Wednesday 3 April, 3.30-6.30pm**

Experience everything St Leo's has to offer:

- Tour our campus
- Hear from the Principal
- Speak with our staff and students
- Information stands and displays
- Activities, performances & rides
- See our community in action!

**Scan Now to Register:**



Our innovative learning environment, strong academic results, focus on student wellbeing, caring community and personalised approach make St Leo's an exceptional place to learn - that's in very high demand!



## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.  
Everyone welcome.

For more details call  
Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.





## SAINT OF THE WEEK

***Saint Alexander of Bergamo***

***Feast Day: March 27***

### **Life**

Saint Alexander of Bergamo (died c. 303) is the patron saint of Bergamo, as well as Capriate San Gervasio and Cervignano d'Adda. Alexander may simply have been a Roman soldier or resident of Bergamo who was tortured and killed for not renouncing his Christian faith.] Details of his life are uncertain, but subsequent Christian stories consider him a centurion of the Theban Legion commanded by Saint Maurice.

### **Legend**

Prior to the commencement of the Diocletian in 303, both Galerius and Maximian in the West inaugurated, on their own responsibility, a crusade against Christianity and sought particularly to remove all Christians from the armies. St. Alexander was one of the victims of this persecution. He is reputed to have been a survivor of the decimation (the killing of every tenth man) ordered against the Theban Legion. He escaped to Milan.

At Milan, he was recognized and imprisoned, and it was demanded that he renounce his Christian faith. However, he was visited in jail by Saint Fidelis and Bishop Saint Maternus. Fidelis managed to organize Alexander's escape. Alexander fled to Como but was captured again.

Brought back to Milan, he was once more condemned to death by decapitation, but during the execution the executioner's arms went stiff. He was imprisoned again, but Alexander once again managed to escape, and ended up in Bergamo after passing through Fara Gera d'Adda and Capriate San Gervasio. At Bergamo, he was the guest of the lord Crotacius, who bid him to hide from his persecutors. However, Alexander decided to become a preacher instead and converted many natives of Bergamo, including Firmus and Rusticus, who were later martyred. Alexander was once again captured and was finally decapitated on August 26, 303, on the spot now occupied by the church of San Alessandro in Colonna.

### **Veneration**

Bergamo Cathedral is dedicated to him and dates from the 4th century, and he is one of the saints in the dedication of the church in Rome for natives of Bergamo.

***Saint Alexander of Bergamo,***

***pray for us that no matter how many obstacles get in our way;***

***we always put aside our fear and persevere in proclaiming our faith.***

***May we place all our trust and love in the Lord.***

***Amen.***



**FETE STALL HOLDERS:  
PLEASE CONTACT THE BELOW TO SEE WHERE YOU CAN HELP**

| STALL  | VOLUNTEER   |
|--|---|
| BBQ and drinks   | Andrew Sakkal 0419 333 134  |
| Fruit and veggies  | Kazzi family 0416 169 570   |
| Cakes  | Bernadette Watt and Amal Shaheen<br>0409 297 740<br><b>(need cakes and sweets and helpers on the day to help serve)</b> |
| Pop corn<br>Slushy<br>Hot dog<br>Fairy Floss                       | Ramza Saliba and family 0414 391 903  |
| Devonshire Tea   | Leonie Miller 8850 6456   |
| Plants   | Judy Horton 0419 604 701  |
| Trash and Treasure (secondhand toys and any goods, donated items)) | Mary Abood 0416 261 994<br>Daniel and Mandah Vella  |
| Maker's Table & Colouring in                                       | Nerida, Martine & Sophie 0425 834 017   |
| Chocolate Wheel  | David Camilleri ( <a href="mailto:info@camhaul.com.au">info@camhaul.com.au</a> ) <b>(please bring NEW items)</b>        |
| Raffle   | Tania Tassone & Liz Wallace 0401 597 278  |
| Fire truck - Arcadia RFS   | Arcadia - Tom   |
| Helium Balloons—donated by Party Jay Shop Dural                    | Savanah   |
| Books  | Melanie Hume and Nigel Morgan   |
| Flowers  | Jessie Guiana 9651 1136<br><b>(please help by bringing fresh flowers the day before)</b>                                |
| Piety Shop   | Lila Bacha 0418 360 024   |
| Parousia Media PTY LTD   | Charbel Raish 0404 292 855  |
| Party Shop   | Lila Bacha 0418 360 024   |
| Kandy Crew Stall   | Kathy Raish 0401 597 278  |
| Kirei Beauty and Wellness Centre                                   | Andrea Winberg 0411 166 371   |
| Serendipity Gifts  | Lucy 0401 930 012   |
| Face painting  | Andrew and Tania Sakkal   |
| Nonno Franco's Gelato  | Jack Vicardi 0481 798 902   |
| Rides  | Andrew Sakkal   |
| Parking attendants   | <b>We need more volunteers please</b>   |



**PROJECT COMPASSION**

As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent.

This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

There is still time to donate! Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations.**

**Please donate to Project Compassion**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



# Parish Roster

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

30/3/2024 TO 31/3/2024

**SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION  
EASTER SUNDAY - YEAR B**



## Holy Week

**PARISH EASTER MASS TIMES 2024**

### PALM SUNDAY

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Vigil 7pm.  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 9.00am & 10.30am.  
Latin 4.30pm.

### HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm Parish only.

### GOOD FRIDAY

29th March  
10.30am Stations of the Cross  
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion.  
4.30pm Confession

### EASTER VIGIL

Saturday 30th March 7.30pm.

### EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31st March 9.00am.  
Latin 10.30am.

**Monastery daily 7am (except Thur & Fri)**

### EASTER TRIDUUM ROSTER

**PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE  
BLANK ROSTER AT SACRISTY WINDOW  
FINAL WEEKEND.**

|             | Vigil<br>Saturday<br>7.00pm | Sunday<br>9.00am | Easter<br>Sunday<br>LATIN MASS<br>10.30am |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Acolyte     |                             |                  |   |
| Reader1     |                             |                  |   |
| Reader2     |                             |                  |   |
| Prayers     |                             |                  |   |
| TV          |                             |                  |   |
| Music       |                             |                  |   |
| Music       |                             |                  |   |
| Music       |                             |                  |   |
| Music       |                             |                  |   |
| Morning Tea |                             |                  |   |
| FLOWERS     | Angela S.                   |                  |   |

See separate Easter roster

### 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.

### 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 Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays & Fridays:** 9.30am to 2.30pm

**Parish Office:** 02 9653 2312  
**Email:** arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233

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

**Website:** www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia  
**Facebook:** stbenedictsarcadia

**MONASTERY:** 9653 1159



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

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