

# St Benedict's Parish

## Arcadia

To listen gladly to Holy reading.  
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4



### COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

**Church Attendance:**  
**One person per 2sqm**  
**Maximum 300 people**

Please use QR CODE provided or  
write your name and phone number when you  
enter Church after sanitizing.



## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B

27 & 28 March 2021

### EASTER MASS TIMES BACK PAGE

#### 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

#### Entrance Antiphon

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

#### 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.*

#### 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.*

#### Gospel Acclamation

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

#### Communion Antiphon

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,  
your will be done.

**Gospel reading for this Week****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.*

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****Mark 14:1 - 15:47 (JB)****THE PLOT AGAINST JESUS:**

Many scholars have proposed reasons for the plot against Jesus; Sometimes we gloss over the conspiratorial aspect of the plot. The trial and death of Jesus was a premeditated act, committed by the leadership in Jerusalem. It was an effort not to fit the evidence to the crime, but the crime to the evidence. And the evidence was meagre, indeed.

Much has been speculated about the reasoning for Judas' actions. From Mark's viewpoint, such speculation was secondary, for Judas was simply an actor that helped to push the plot against Jesus forward.

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE PASSOVER:**

The preparation for the Last Supper was unusual but necessary when we view it in context of the gospel. Jesus' life was in danger, so preparations had to be done in secret. The sign for contact was unusual: a man doing a woman's chore. While this might have been obvious to the people in the neighbourhood, we must remember the city's population growth at the time of the Passover. The city was bursting with visitors; many households in the city were hosting guests and family members from out of town. The bustle that the holiday brought distracted people. A sign that was obvious to one person would be ignored by another, and, even if the sign were noticed, there would not be time enough to gossip about a man fetching water from the neighbourhood pool.

**THE LAST SUPPER**

Mark placed the Last Supper in the context of betrayal. Mark 14:17-21 announced Jesus' knowledge of the plot against him and the involvement of Judas in that plot. Mark 14:27-31 prophesied the abandonment of the Master by his disciples. Mark saw the Eucharist in terms of mental anguish. The commitment of intimacy found in the breaking of bread and the sharing of a cup was thread bare. Jesus gave his life to his followers. What did they give in return? Very little beyond bravado.

Two differences between the betrayal of Judas and the abandonment of the disciples were a matter of timing and intent. The prophecy of Judas' betrayal preceded the Last Supper, while the comment on abandonment was after the self-giving of the Master. Judas would dip the morsel in the common dish along with Jesus, a sign of not only fellowship, but of an interwoven destiny. Judas would be condemned for his duplicity. Those who would abandon Jesus, however, would be forgiven and become witnesses to the Resurrection. Why? They were innocent, without guile. The betrayal and arrest of Jesus would scandalize them and cause their loss of commitment.

The Last Supper glued the two prophecies together and acted as a counterpoint. As the commentary pointed out before, what Jesus did for his followers, they could not do for him. The stair-step format of these passages did put a focus on the institution Eucharist; the betrayal-abandonment comments only heightened that focus. "This is My Body...This I My Blood of the covenant, poured out for many" clearly stated the intent of Jesus; he would give is all for his followers. This gift would be fulfilled only with the realization of the Kingdom, when the Lord would "drink of the fruit of the vine anew." That fulfillment would come in the Resurrection.

*How has the Passion narrative strengthened your faith commitment?*

Jesus prepared himself for his death. He tried to prepare his followers. Next, we will see the results of that preparation. Let us keep in mind that his words to us, his followers, were not to console our loss, but to look beyond to his glory.

**Take the time this week to walk the way of the cross with the Lord. Reflect on your weaknesses and your need for the Master.**

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**Saint Rafqa**  
1832–1914



**Feast Day: March 23**  
**Patron Saint of lost parents and of the sick**

Rafqa was born in Lebanon on 29 June 1832, on the Feast of Saint Peter and Paul. She was named Boutrossieh (the feminine name of Peter). Her mother died when she was 7 years old, and her father struggled financially. He sent Boutrossieh away to work as a servant for 4 years in Damascus. When she returned home she found her father had remarried.

At 14, her stepmother and her aunty were arranging for her to marry, but she did not want to marry. She wished to become a nun and went straight to the Convent of Our Lady of Liberation at Bikfaya. Her father and stepmother tried to persuade her to come back home, but she refused and asked the mistress of novices to excuse her from seeing them and she agreed. They returned home and never saw her again.

On 9 February 1855, on the feast of Saint Maroun, Boutrossieh commenced her novitiate (the period of training and preparing someone for the religious institute) at the convent in Ghazir. She took her temporary vows on 19 March 1862. She was assigned to be in charge of the kitchen service in the Jesuit school in Ghazir, where she spent seven years. In 1860, some Jesuit priests invited Boutrossieh and another nun to assist them in their mission in Deir El Kamar. It was a time of civil unrest. One day while walking the streets, she noticed a little Maronite boy being chased by soldiers, wanting to kill him. Boutrossieh hid him under her religious robe. Civil unrest made it dangerous to remain and forced Boutrossieh back to Ghazir. She established a school at the request of Antoun Issa, he wanted her to come to his town to educate the girls. This school grew to have up to 60 girls, and Boutrossieh stayed there for 7 years, fulfilling this mission.

After the Marian Order where Boutrossieh belonged was dissolved, she entered the convent of Saint Simon in Ayto. In 1872 she took her perpetual vows of obedience, chastity and poverty and took the name Rafqa after her mother. She was an example to her fellow sisters, always in prayer and silent in hard work. The sisters worked manual labour, harvesting vegetables and grain, they also cultivated silkworms and sewed vestments for the churches. After 14 years at this convent Rafqa felt that she was called to bigger sacrifices. She asked to be closer to God and to share in Jesus' passion. God answered her prayers immediately. That night she felt a terrible headache which quickly spread to her eyes. She suffered this way silently for 12 years, and it caused her to lose her sight. Her superior sent her to be examined by many doctors, all which concluded they could not do anything to help her. An American physician was consulted and he decided that surgery was necessary for Rafqa. Rafqa refused aesthetic, and offered up the pain. During the surgery the doctor accidentally pulled her whole eye out. Rafqa didn't complain, instead she continued to pray, repeating "I join my sufferings to yours, my Jesus." Rafqa even thanked the doctor after his mistake. The pain was in her left eye, and surgery did not help, gradually she became blind and her eyes continued to haemorrhage. She did not let this suffering isolate her from the other sisters. Rafqa continued to work, spinning wool and cotton and knitting stockings for the other sisters and participating in prayer.

One day Rafqa commented to the Mother Superior of great pain in her waist. Her body was weakening and she was eventually bedridden, although she was still able to use her hands and she thanked God for this as she used her hands to work.

Rafqa died on 23 March 1914, and was buried in the convent's cemetery under the oak trees. She was beatified on 10 June 2001 by Pope John Paul II.

*We remember a remarkable woman, who lived a humble life. Although she suffered, she never complained and continued to give thanks for the opportunity to share in Christ's passion. We ask for the intercession of Saint Rafqa for all those who are suffering, may the Lord comfort them. Like St Rafqa may we be able to join our suffering with Jesus' suffering on the cross. AMEN.*

Source of content: [livingmaronite.com](http://livingmaronite.com)

## In Our Parish

**We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Salvatore Papandrea.**

**We welcome into God's family to all who were recently baptised, especially Kayleigh Milan and Nicholas Kilkelly.**

**We pray for the sick of our Parish.**

## THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

### Chapter 4

*In the first place, to love the Lord God with all one's heart, all one's soul, and all one's strength.  
Then, one's neighbour as oneself.*

### PARISH LENTEN GROUPS

Lenten groups will be meeting in homes or at Church for about an hour reading and reflecting together on the Sunday Gospel readings during Lent.



**Miriam Brown:**

**Wednesdays 1pm** at the Parish during Lent.  
(last session 31st March 2021)

**Benigna Cascun with Gebran Azzi:**

**Friday nights 6pm** during lent (last session 26th of March 2021).

Address: 726A Old Northern Road, Dural (Benigna's house).

### ST BENEDICT'S LENTEN RETREAT

Thank you to Glenice Lui for organising a beautiful Lenten retreat of the Stations of the Cross and taking the time to put together this retreat. Thank you for strengthening our relationship with Jesus. We had approximately 30 people who attended even with the downpour! Well done!

Also thank you to Father Hilarion for leading the retreat. We are blessed to have you.

### CHRISM MASS

Tuesday, 30th March 7.30pm

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 30th March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

Could we have **two parish representatives** to attend Mass and receive the Oils?



Please let Father Bernard know by 23rd March if you are able to attend or contact the office on 9653 2312.



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: As we approach the Holy Season of Easter consider offering up a Mass for your loved ones and supporting priests in need.

The Mass will be offered up for your intentions by priests in the poorest parts of the world who have no other means of support. You can also send them a Mass card.

Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings](http://www.aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings)

### CATHOLICARE'S WOMEN'S REFUGE FUNDRAISER



CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay is partnering with Bespoke & Beautiful Interiors to undertake a much needed renovation of Erin's Place, a refuge in Northern Sydney for

women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

CatholicCare's Domestic Violence Response Enhancement (DVRE) team provide crisis support for women and children who are experiencing domestic violence. Many of these women are referred to their Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) for transitional accommodation at the refuge. Specialist caseworkers then work closely with the women to ensure their safety and navigate the legal, logistical and emotional hurdles associated with leaving a violent relationship.

By making a donation to Erin's Place, you can help us create a transformational space and improve the lives of hundreds of victims of domestic violence. Please donate at <https://www.chuffed.org/project/design-for-hope>



### PROJECT COMPASSION

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.



Throughout five decades of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, Caritas Australia has worked alongside vulnerable communities with the generous support of Australians. Project Compassion has also helped with access to education, health services, agricultural training and through programs that reduce maternal and infant mortality.

This year, we have presented five stories from people striving to 'Be More' – just a few amongst the millions who have been helped through Project Compassion. As we celebrate this Australian icon, we would like to thank generations of supporters nationwide for their generosity, which allows us to move forward with lifesaving strategies to tackle new challenges.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

## ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND

3/4/21 to 4/4/21

### EASTER SUNDAY Year B

**PLEASE SEE ROSTER IN SACRISTY**

The Roster is now available for pick up in the Sacristy. Please collect your copy.

Please peruse outside the sacristy window the EASTER weekend roster.

**NEEDED—ACOLYTES - for Saturday 7pm Mass.**  
Our Priests need YOUR help. Training will be provided.

If you are interested in to be added to the Reading Ministries please contact the office or see Father Bernard after Mass or 9653 2312.

## CATECHIST NEWS

The students have been enjoying Fr Bernard's visits to a few classrooms again this a week!

This week's free Ministry Induction training finishes on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Using the Interactive Whiteboard Resources) as a morning course 10am-12pm OR an afternoon course 1pm-3pm via Zoom. Please contact me for further information.

### Catechist Vacancies:

Helper for Glenorie PS Wednesdays 10:10am – 10:50am

Hillside PS Fridays 8:50am-9:45am

If you are available and interested to know more, please talk to Fr Bernard or give me a call or send me an email. Training is provided.

God bless,

Miriam Brown 9652 0558 or [srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Join the Celebrations for Divine Mercy Sunday on 11th April:

this is your invitation to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St Agatha's Pennant Hills, between 1:30pm and 3:45pm, including **Mass at 2:00pm**, Reconciliation, Benediction, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. **Covid restrictions limit the congregation to 200 people only.**

**Bookings essential:**

[www.stagatha.org.au/mass-booking/](http://www.stagatha.org.au/mass-booking/)

**"Tell the whole world of My great mercy ... mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Jesus to St Faustina).**

Enquiries: Greg 0419228199.

## Disciples School of Mission 7-11 April 2021

Are you aged between 16 - 40 and searching for an adventure in 2021? If so, then join the Disciples of Jesus Community for the Disciples School of Mission. This five day live-in training course calls young people from across Australia to be equipped in youth ministry and evangelisation. You then have the opportunity to put into practice what you have learnt and dive into an optional three-week mission experience.

Be renewed in your own journey, fully equipped for mission/youth ministry and formed in the Catholic faith.

You won't regret it, it's an adventure!

For more info contact [therese.mgl@gmail.com](mailto:therese.mgl@gmail.com) or [discipleschoolofmission.com.au](http://discipleschoolofmission.com.au)

## PLAYGROUP

Every Monday 10am to 12pm.

This is a gathering for parents and carers with children under school age. It's perfect for children to learn and develop through play and interaction with others. It's also great for parents and carers to chat, socialise and make new friends! We meet every Monday during school terms 10am to 12pm. No need to book just turn up.

Everyone welcome!

## PARISH SWEET STALL

The next Parish Sweet Stall will be held on the Holy Easter weekend. At the 7.30pm Holy Saturday Vigil Mass, Easter Sunday 7am, and in between the 9 and 10.30am Sunday Mass (not after the 10.30am Mass).



There will be plates of Lebanese Easter sweets, cakes, Turkish Delight and cookies!

**Please feel free to bring items for sale.**

For any queries or donations please call Lila Bacha on 96521113 or 0418360024.

## 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 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.



## TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage.

The Broken Bay Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information, please phone the Tribunal Office on **9307 8309** or email [tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au)

## SLAVERY-FREE EASTER

This Easter, let's celebrate with clear consciences and buy slavery-free chocolate. This is a small change that can make a huge impact worldwide on the lives of many children forced into slave labour.

When buying your Easter eggs (or your daily dose of chocolate, as the case may be), look for these logos:



It means the chocolate you are buying is certified slavery-free.

Here is some information on the slavery-free Easter campaign, which is well worth a read:

<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/>

[Download Easter Chocolate Shopping Guide \(PDF\)](#)

## DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Thank you for the donation of clothing and items. The clothes were dropped off to Sr Mary, it made her day as she completely run out of donations for the seafarers, she is very grateful!

Here is a photo of Sr Mary's car being loaded with the bags:

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc.

Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

*(Sr Mary boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse etc she is onto it.)*

Cheers,  
Cathy Holling  
Ph: 0403 062 255



## THIS DAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME



At Your right side there I hung  
On Your every word.  
To Your jaws did cleave Your tongue,  
Still Your voice I heard.

Pardon for them did You seek,  
Sparing no excuse.  
And Your humble heart so meek  
Answered not abuse.

Whence I wondered: "What if I  
Pardon, too, should seek?"  
But recalling all my crimes  
Stole my breath to speak.

Arms outstretched, You welcomed me  
After all I'd done,  
Mercifully questioning:  
*"Still from Me you run?"*

*"Having suffered in your pain,  
Shouldering your cross,  
When your love I sought in vain,  
Then I grieved your loss.*

*"What you have to offer Me  
Now to make amends  
Is today's fidelity,  
And we shall be friends."*

"Jesus, please remember me!"  
From the depths I cry.  
*"This day you will be with Me  
Nevermore to die."*

## EASTER WEEKEND MASS TIMES



|                        |                       |   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Holy Thursday</b>   | <b>April 1st 2021</b> | <b>7.30pm Parish Church</b>   |
| <b>Good Friday</b>     | <b>April 2nd 2021</b> | <b>10.30am - Stations of the Cross<br/>3pm - Passion of the Lord</b>    |
| <b>Easter Saturday</b> | <b>April 3rd 2021</b> | <b>7.30pm - Easter Vigil</b>  |
| <b>Easter Sunday</b>   | <b>April 4th 2021</b> | <b>7am - Monastery<br/>9am - Parish Church<br/>10.30am - Latin Mass</b> |

## POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

*Let us pray that we may experience the  
sacrament of reconciliation  
with renewed depth,  
to taste the infinite mercy of God.*

**AMEN**



## COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

**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 sanitize 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.**

*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:  
10.30am to 2.30pm**

**Parish Office: 9653 2312**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Bernard McGrath OSB**

**After hours: 0416 032 497**

**Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com**

**Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159**

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

**Website: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)**

**Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia**

**Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd,  
Arcadia 2159**

**Monastery: 9653 1159**

**Good Samaritan Sisters: 9653 1231**

**Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:**

**BSB: 062 784**

**Acct: 1446 8001**