

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## PARISH Masses

### Weekend:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil  
Sunday 9:00am  
Sunday 10:30am

### Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6.30pm Adoration  
7:00pm Mass & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am  
Adoration & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

**Father Shansana is away from the 4th of January to the 25th January 2023. For anything urgent contact Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.**

## 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



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

14 & 15 JANUARY 2023

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

*Let us pray:*  
Almighty ever-living God,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### REFLECTION: CLEANSING

*Sunday's Gospel, tells us that the baptism that John brought, one of cleansing for the forgiveness of sin was a very helpful prerequisite for understanding the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which Jesus would soon bring. (John 1:29-34)*

- *Do I realise inappropriate images I watch, the crude language that I sometimes use...Jesus' death was required for every single one of those sins?*
- *Do I try to keep my mind clean?*
- *Do I go to confession regularly?*
- *Do I sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament to fully appreciate all that our Saviour endured in His love for me?*



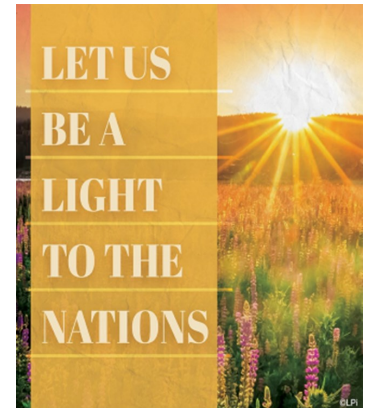
*Dear Lord,  
Help me keep my mind clean and pure. Teach me to feel at ease when I go to confession and talk about everything that is bothering me. Help me know that Your love never runs out for me. Never let me be separated from You. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on me!  
**Amen.***

**First Reading****Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified';  
 I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.  
 And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:  
 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

**The word of the Lord.****Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.****Second Reading****1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

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

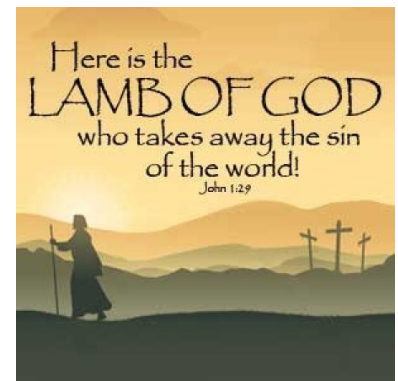
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him

to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL****John 1:29-34 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

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

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, January 15

St. Arnold Janssen

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6, Psalm 40: 2, 4, 7-10, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34

*The Lamb of God. (John 1:29)*

When you hear John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God, you might picture a cute baby sheep cavorting in a pasture or happily resting on its shepherd's shoulders. But that can be confusing. How can Jesus be that kind of a lamb?

Israelites in Jesus' time would have understood what John was getting at. They would likely have called to mind the feast of Passover. Each year during that feast, every Jewish family slaughtered and ate an unblemished lamb in remembrance of God bringing his people out of slavery in Egypt (see Exodus 12).

They might also have thought about Isaiah's song of the Suffering Servant, who like a lamb, silently allowed himself to be led to the slaughter while he bore the guilt of us all (Isaiah 53:6-7).

Finally, they might have remembered when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. As Isaac prepared the wood for the sacrifice, he asked why there was no sheep to offer. Abraham replied, "God will provide the sheep for the burnt offering" (Genesis 22:8).

John likely had all this in mind when he called Jesus the Lamb of God: Jesus was the sacrifice, provided by God, who would silently offer his life to redeem us all.

Contemplating Jesus as the Lamb of God gives us an infinite number of reasons to worship him. We can praise him for delivering us from enslavement to sin. We can ponder what he silently bore to redeem us. We can bow to him as the perfect sacrifice, provided for us by God himself. Jesus is so much bigger, so much more committed to us, so much more glorious in his mercy, than we could ever imagine!

At Mass today, we will be invited to "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). How happy we are to be called to his supper, to behold him and to receive him in the Eucharist!

***"Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, I worship you!"***

(Source: Word Among Us India Dec22-Jan23 Pg 46)

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 16 Readings: Heb 5:1-10. Mk 2:18-22.

**R:** You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Tuesday 17 Readings: Heb 6:10-20. Mk 2:23-28.

**R:** The Lord will remember his covenant for ever.

**St Anthony, abbot**

Wednesday 18 Heb 7:1-3, 15-17. Mk 3:1-6.

**R:** You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Thursday 19 Readings: Heb 7:25-8:6. Mk 3:7-12.

**R:** Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.

Friday 20 Readings: Heb 8:6-13. Mk 3:13-19.

**R:** Kindness and truth shall meet.

**St Fabian, pope, martyr. St Sebastian, martyr.**

Saturday 21 Readings: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14. Mk 3:20-21.

**R:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**St Agnes, virgin, martyr.**

Source: Ordo 2023

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2023

### FOR EDUCATORS

***We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all. Amen.***





## THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

### Chapter 4

*Daily in one's prayer, with tears and sighs, to confess one's past sins to God.*

### PARISH FUNDS

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:  
BSB: 062 784 Acct: 100002141  
Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:  
CBA—Catholic Development Fund

### FATHER SHANSANA AWAY

**Father Shansana is away from the 4th of January to the 25th January. For anything urgent contact Fr Hilarion on 0478 909 541.**

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing **FATHER ALBERIC** a very happy birthday!

**14TH JANUARY**

Thank you for your concern over our spiritual life. As you celebrate your special day, may the Lord shower you with more grace and blessings!

May God bless you on your birthday and keep you healthy always!



Happy Birthday



"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."  
*Matthew 11:28*

**JANUARY 2023 PROGRAMS**

**7th (Saturday) ONE DAY MALAYALAM RETREAT**  
10:00am - 2:30pm

**13th-15th (Fri-Sun) INNER HEALING RETREAT (LIVE-IN)**  
"And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:32  
with Fr. Roni George VC and Fr. Joby Varghese VC  
Friday 5:30pm - Sunday 4.00pm **BOOKING: drcsyd@gmail.com**

**29th (Sunday) ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE (LAST SUNDAY RETREAT)**  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
with Fr. Roni George VC and Fr. Joby Varghese VC  
• Praise and Worship • Preaching The Word • Eucharistic Adoration • Holy Mass

<b>KID'S MINISTRY</b> FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 5 - 8 YEARS	<b>CHILDREN'S MINISTRY</b> FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 9 - 12 YEARS	<b>TEENAGER'S MINISTRY</b> FOR TEENAGERS AGED BETWEEN 13 - 17 YEARS
--	--	--

**DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE**  
160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,  
Tel: 02 4372 1598, email drcsydneym@gmail.com  
• www.divineretreatcentre.org • www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

### CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

**Friday nights:** after 7pm Mass

**Wednesday mornings:** after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome. **Come and meet new people.**

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.



## In Our Parish

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

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially **Brother Mario and Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum)**.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially **Tim Hewitt, may they Rest in Peace.**



## **Saint Agnes**

### **Virgin and Martyr**

**c. 291 - c. 304**

**Feast Day: January 21**



**Patron Saint of those seeking chastity and purity, engaged couples, rape victims, gardeners, young girls, and Girl Scouts**

*He who chose me first for Himself shall receive me. Why are you delaying, executioner? ...She stood, she prayed, she bent down her neck. You could see the executioner tremble, as though he himself had been condemned, and his right hand shake, his face grow pale, as he feared the peril of another, while the maiden feared not for her own.*  
~De Virginitibus, Saint Ambrose

According to one tradition, the daughter of Emperor Constantine the Great—the first emperor to convert to Christianity and legalize its practice—contracted leprosy. Her name was Constantina. Seeking a cure, she approached the tomb of today's young virgin-martyr and tearfully beseeched her intercession. The tradition further states that Constantina was indeed healed, and, in gratitude, her father commissioned the building of a church over Saint Agnes' grave. To this day, a church adorns that same spot. To this day, it is named in honor of Saint Agnes. And to this day, the faithful beseech Agnes' intercession in the same fashion as Constantina in days of old.

Very little is known about Saint Agnes, except for Saint Ambrose's brief words written many decades after her death. We do know for certain that she was martyred at the age of twelve or thirteen. Later traditions have supplied what history cannot, including what follows.

Agnes was born into a noble Christian family in Rome. She was said to have been quite beautiful, which, together with her wealth and holiness, caused many young noblemen to seek her as their bride. But Agnes' eyes beheld One Who was the most beautiful of all—her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After taking in His beauty, she could look upon no one else. She dedicated herself to a life of virginity.

Such self-gift, however, was neither well received nor well understood by the young men of her time. Agnes was reported to the local prefect Sempronius for being a Christian, in an attempt to dissuade her from her vow of chastity. The prefect first tried to convince Agnes to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods. She refused. Her heart was firm in its devotion to her Beloved. The prefect then tried to frighten her by displaying some instruments of torture in the hands of the cruel executioner himself. Agnes showed no fear and refused to burn incense to false gods. Outraged, the prefect ordered that she be taken to brothels to be violated by immoral men.

During these ordeals, Agnes knew her Heavenly Spouse would protect her. Evil men could stain their swords with her blood, but they could never profane her body consecrated to Christ. At the brothels, the men looked at her with lust from a distance, but appeared more frightened of her than she was of them. None dared approach her. None dared defile her. It is said that only one young man did approach her, only to be immediately struck blind and brought to the ground. Through a prayer spoken by Agnes, though, his sight was restored.

The prefect, having failed to convert Agnes back to paganism, or to defile her body, then condemned her to a death by beheading. Agnes willingly offered her neck to the executioner, who trembled with fear as he approached, while she was as joyful as a bride waiting to meet her Bridegroom.

Saint Agnes, along with Saint Cecilia, was one of the earliest martyrs whose name was honored by its insertion into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I in today's Mass.) Her name in Latin means "lamb." As a result, since the sixteenth century, every year on her feast day two lambs are brought to the Roman basilica built over her tomb. Their wool is shorn and weaved into various pallia, vestments covering the shoulders. These very pallia are later placed on the shoulders of archbishops by the pope himself on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Along with his crozier, or staff, the pallium symbolizes a bishop's role as shepherd.

***Saint Agnes, at a tender age you gave your life to Christ, choosing Him alone as your Spouse. Your fidelity to Christ was unwavering, showing you preferred death over betrayal. Please pray for me, that I may also choose Christ as the Spouse of my soul and be faithful to Him even until death. Saint Agnes, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.***



*Letter to Clergy and Parishioners in the Diocese of Broken Bay*

Thursday 12 January 2023

My dear brothers and sisters

As Administrator of the Diocese whilst Bishop Randazzo is on leave, I offer this small tribute from our Diocese of Broken Bay to the late Cardinal George Pell who passed away in Rome on 11 January 2023.

When such a figure as colossal and as complex as Cardinal Pell passes away, we recognise that a particular moment in history has discovered us. It is a reflective moment that seeks to take stock of the influence of a person unequalled in the experience of the Church of Australia. The future will both further reveal and analyse the phenomenal nature of Cardinal Pell's life, his experience, his contribution. It is not for me now to offer insight into this. It is, however, for me to acknowledge that the Australian Church has been undeniably shaped by his leadership over so many decades. His passing represents a defining moment for the Catholic community in Australia, and of course, not only in Australia, but across the world given his international presence and ministry. No other Australian Catholic churchman has exercised such global influence.

Cardinal Pell's episcopal motto, *Be Not Afraid*, summarises that remarkable approach by which he sought both to arrest what he interpreted as an ecclesial life in danger of losing its identity and purpose, and to ensure that the Church did not lose its voice in the public domain. His stature and calibre, his determination, and his temperament, catapulted him into a status charged with significance of such complex dimensions, particularly given the challenges of the last twenty years through which we have struggled with the exposure of sexual abuse in our community. Yet, in the midst of this, Cardinal Pell retained always to those who knew him personally a compassionate camaraderie and disarming humour. There was a simplicity in him that was unmistakable to those closest to him.

My own personal association with Cardinal Pell extends nearly 40 years – I first met him when he was Principal of Aquinas College, Ballarat in the late 1970s. Through all his subsequent appointments as Rector of Corpus Christi Seminary, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Archbishop of Melbourne and Archbishop of Sydney, our relationship developed through various twists and turns. Though we both tacitly accepted that we “did not read the same books,” Cardinal Pell was unfailingly kind, generous and encouraging of me in my own appointments and engagements which often brought us together. I recall with fondness the morning spent with him in his office in Rome when he was Vatican Prefect of the Secretariat of the Economy I owe him a personal debt of gratitude for the manner in which he allowed me to make my own contribution to the Church.

**Very Rev Dr David Ranson**



Our own memories of Cardinal Pell will be a mixture, not least shaped by the media's perception of his indomitable character. Yet, all of us cannot but be in awe of his steadfastness, his loyalty, his perseverance, his fidelity, his commitment to what he believed was right and just. Robust and passionate, his death leaves an unmistakable vacuum.

At this time, I am especially conscious that many of those who exercise senior leadership in our Diocese of Broken Bay knew Cardinal Pell as a friend and colleague, having worked closely with him for many years when he was Archbishop of Sydney. This moment is a particularly sad one for them and on your behalf, I extend to them our deepest sympathy on the loss of such a confidante and mentor. I extend, too, our condolences to Cardinal Pell's family, particularly his brother, David.

The funeral details of the late Cardinal are currently being considered and we will join with the Archdiocese of Sydney in whichever way we can to ensure that the life and legacy of the Cardinal is given every fitting acknowledgement.

In the meantime, a Memorial Mass will be offered at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara at 6.00pm on Monday 16 January, the day on which a funeral Mass for the late Cardinal will be celebrated in Rome. The faithful of the Diocese are invited to join together in prayer for Cardinal Pell.

We commend the soul of Cardinal George Pell to Almighty God in the knowledge that he fought the race of faith to the very end. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. And may his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Sincerely in Christ,



Very Rev Dr David Ranson  
Administrator of the Diocese  
In the absence of Bishop Anthony Randazzo

***Eternal Rest grant to him O Lord,  
And let the Perpetual light  
shine upon him,  
May he Rest in Peace.  
Amen***



His Eminence  
**Cardinal George Pell AC**

---

*Memorial Mass*


---

with  
**Very Rev Dr David Ranson**  
Vicar General, Diocese of Broken Bay

Monday 6:00pm, 16 January 2023  
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara

*Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass*

**Parish Roster**

<b>NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER</b> 21/1/23 TO 22/1/23 <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A</b>			
	<b>Saturday 7pm</b>	<b>Sunday 9am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Nigel M	
<b>Reader1</b>	Margaret B	Teresa G	Ava M
<b>Reader2</b>	Maria G	Rebecca R	Steve M
<b>Prayers</b>	Miriam B	Judy H	Emma M
<b>TV</b>		Roderick R	
<b>Music</b>		Karina S	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Noelle T	Mark Q
<b>Music</b>		John T	
<b>Music</b>			
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Mary A & Tania T	
 <b>FLOWERS</b>	<i>Tania T</i>		

*Thank You!*

**Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!  
 If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish.**

**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**

*(Closed from 26th December, reopens 13th January.  
 During the month of January only open Fridays from the 13th.  
 For anything urgent please contact Fr Hilarion 0478 909 541).*

**Parish Office: 02 9653 2312**  
**Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com**

**Parish Administrator: 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.**