

St Benedict's Parish

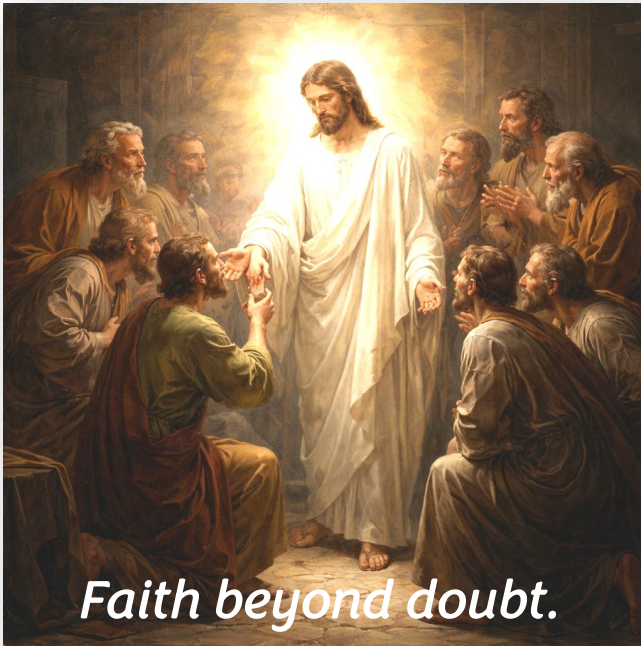
Arcadia



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

APRIL 11 & 12 2026



Faith beyond doubt.

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday 10:30am

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration

7:00pm Mass & Confession

(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am

Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

Baptisms
Reconciliation
For the Sick
Marriages
Funerals

Parish Priest:

Fr Shansana 0437 884 233

Parish Office 9653 2312



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
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.

SELF REFLECTION: BELIEVING HEARTS

This Sunday's Gospel, **John 20:19–31**, the risen Jesus comes to the disciples in their fear and speaks peace. He shows His wounds, not to shame them, but to strengthen their faith. Thomas struggles to believe, yet Jesus meets him with patience and mercy. In our own doubts, Jesus does not turn away — He invites us to come closer and believe.

I reflect...

1. Do I let Jesus bring me peace in my fears?
2. How do I respond to doubt?
3. Do I bring my questions to Jesus?
4. Do I see love in His wounds?
5. Do I believe without seeing?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You come to me in my doubts and fears and offer Your peace. Help me to trust in Your presence, even when I cannot see. Strengthen my faith, draw me closer to Your mercy, and lead me to proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God." Amen.

First Reading**Acts 2:42-47 (JB)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.*****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.****Second Reading****1 Peter 1:3-9 (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.*****Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!****You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!****Alleluia!****GOSPEL****John 20:19-31 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again: 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me, Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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

READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday April 12
Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Peter 1:3-9 / John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus enters a room filled with fear and speaks, “Peace be with you.” The disciples are transformed by this encounter, and Thomas moves from doubt to a deep confession of faith: “My Lord and my God.” This personal encounter with the risen Christ is the foundation of Christian life.

In Acts, we see what happens when people truly believe in the Resurrection. The early Christians live in unity, share what they have, pray together, and gather to break bread. Their faith is not private — it shapes how they live and care for one another. Their joy becomes a witness that draws others to the Lord.

St Peter reminds us that faith is not always easy. We may face doubts, struggles, and trials, yet these refine our faith like gold in fire. Even without seeing Jesus physically, we are called to love Him and rejoice in Him. Like Thomas, we are invited to move beyond doubt into trust.

The readings together show a journey:

The risen Jesus brings peace → faith grows even in doubt → faith transforms how we live → the community becomes a witness of hope.

Key Thoughts

- Jesus meets us in fear and brings peace.
- Doubt can become a path to deeper faith.
- True faith changes how we live with others.
- The Resurrection fills us with lasting hope.
- Our joyful faith becomes a witness to the world.

Take-Home Challenge

This week, bring one doubt, worry, or fear to Jesus in prayer and ask for His peace. Then show your faith in action by reaching out in kindness to someone — a call, a visit, or helping someone in need.

Prayer

Risen Lord Jesus, You come to us in our fears and doubts and offer Your peace. Strengthen our faith, fill us with hope, and help us live in love and unity. May our lives witness to Your Resurrection and lead others to believe in You. Amen.

Source: chatgpt

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 13	Readings: Acts 4:23-31. Jn 3:1-8. R: Happy are all who put their trust in the Lord. St Martin I, pope, martyr.
Tuesday 14	Readings: Acts 4:32-37. Jn 3:7-15. R: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.
Wednesday 15	Readings: Acts 5:17-26. Jn 3:16-21. R: Let all who seek the Lord rejoice.
Thursday 16	Readings: Acts 5:27-33. Jn 3:31-36. R: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.
Friday 17	Readings: Acts 5:34-42. Jn 6:1-15. R: One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.
Saturday 18	Readings: Acts 6:1-7. Jn 6:16-21. R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.



**O Saint Martin,
faithful shepherd and martyr,
help us to stand firm in the
truth and remain strong in
faith and courage.
Pray for us.
Amen.**

Source: Ordo 2026



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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

FR CLEMENT

10TH APRIL 1976

We warmly congratulate Fr Clement on the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination.

Thank you, Father, for your faithful service, dedication, and witness to our parish and the wider Church. May God continue to bless you in your ministry!



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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us this Lent.

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination:



FRED ZEATER

This week's Volunteer of the Week is Fred Zeater. Thank you, Fred, for installing the new lights at the sacristy entrance of the church. They are wonderful and beautifully illuminate the area, making it safer and more welcoming.

God bless you and thank you for your generous service!

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY WAR

Loving and merciful God,



We bring before You all countries suffering from war, bombing, and violence.

We pray for innocent lives caught in fear and destruction, especially the vulnerable and those who have lost their homes, families, and safety.

Lord, bring peace where there is conflict, healing where there is injury, and hope where there is despair.

Touch the hearts of leaders and decision-makers with wisdom and compassion, and guide the world towards justice and reconciliation.

May Your peace, which is beyond all understanding, guard every heart and every nation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEALING MASS



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

**NEXT HEALING MASS:
THURSDAY 7TH OF MAY 2026**

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

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 for the next program as we are taking names now.

*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.*

CELEBRATING FR MICHAEL'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

Next Sunday 19th of April
after the 9am Mass
All are welcome!
Please bring a plate if you wish.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BROTHER MARIO 18TH APRIL



Brother Mario we hold you in our prayers and close to our hearts. Even though you are not well, we ask the Lord to surround you with His healing love, peace, and comfort. May Our Lady watch over you, and may God grant you strength and gentle rest today and always.

Happy Birthday, and God bless you abundantly.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Invites you to our

Engaging Your Faith online presentations

From \$25 per session.

For more information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/



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

Term 2 will resume the week of the 20th April. Wishing all families and Catechists a blessed and holy Easter and holiday break.

Due to health reasons, I will be stepping aside as Parish Catechist Coordinator. I have greatly enjoyed this role and thank everyone for the support that I have received over the years. A very big thank you to Martina Jutrisa, who is taking on this position. Please continue to keep Martina and the parish Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers.

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
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!



FEAST OF THE WEEK

DIVING MERCY SUNDAY

SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2026

Reflection: In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Maria Faustina Kowolska and added the Feast of Divine Mercy to the Church's official calendar. Saint Faustina, who died in 1938, was a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. She came from a simple and poor family of farmers, had only three years of rudimentary education, and performed the humblest of tasks in her convent. But she also was a mystic who was privileged to have many private revelations from our Lord. In obedience to her superior and spiritual director, she recorded these private revelations in six notebooks. Those notebooks are known today under the title: *Divine Mercy in My Soul: Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*. The messages contained within her diary present profound communications from God for our day and age. Though the messages are many, there are several new ways that God is calling us to a new form of devotion.

A first way is through meditation on the image of Divine Mercy. Of this, Saint Faustina wrote:

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, "paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You" (#47).

"The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross....Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him" (#299).

A second way is through our participation in the Solemnity of Divine Mercy:

"On that day (the 8th day of Easter each year) the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity" (#699).

A third way is through the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Once, as I was going down the hall to the kitchen, I heard these words in my soul: "Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy" (#687).

A fourth way is by honoring Jesus' passion at the 3 o'clock hour:

At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of me in virtue of My Passion" (#1320).

A fifth way is through an apostolic movement to spread the message of Divine Mercy. During her lifetime, Sister Faustina believed Jesus was calling her to found a new congregation, but that never materialized. Jesus, nonetheless, spoke to her in ways that revealed His desire that this "new congregation" be established. Since a formal religious congregation was never founded in her lifetime, we must look to the founding of subsequent congregations and apostolic movements that seek to spread the messages of Divine Mercy. God is calling each of us not only to receive His mercy but to spread that mercy to others in personal and organized ways.

Though Saint Faustina died in 1938, we should see the messages in her *Diary* as messages God especially desires we learn and live today. God moves slowly and methodically. He first revealed these messages, then allowed them to be studied by the Church for decades, then led Pope John Paul to canonize her and establish the universal Feast of Mercy on the last day of the octave of Easter in the year 2000. For these reasons, we should see this as one of the newest and most relevant devotions in our lifetimes.

(Continued next page...)

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As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, ponder the profound significance of this new form of devotion for the Church and world today. We need God's abundant Divine Mercy to flow from the gates of Heaven upon us more than ever. Only in Heaven will we understand the full depths of God's Mercy. For now, we must trust all that He has revealed through his humble servant Saint Faustina and respond to the requests He has given to us through her. Commit yourself to the various ways God has called us to call upon His Mercy and do so with as much vigor and devotion you can offer Him. The following is the 3 o'clock prayer Jesus gave to Saint Faustina:

Prayer: *You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us (#1319). Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: mycatholic.life

DIVINE MERCY HOUR AT ST AGATHA'S Sunday 12th April 2026

- 1.00pm Confessions will commence and be available for the whole afternoon.**
- 1.30pm Welcome, Rosary, Act of Entrustment to Our Lady, Prayers for the Pope.**
- 2.00pm Mass**
- 3.00pm Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet**
- 3.45pm Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image**

Enquiries: Parish Office or Therese 9651 3028

ALL WELCOME!

SHARING IS CARING

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

– Aesop –

There is always something we can give, even when we don't have much. It doesn't have to be big. It can be just pausing long enough to notice someone else's needs. Even that small moment of awareness can matter.

Now that the school holidays are upon us, children are home more and life can feel busy or a bit chaotic. There might be outings, errands, or just lots going on at once. In the middle of all that, it's easy to think we don't have time or much to give to others, but even the simplest things can make a difference.

We can lead by example and show children what sharing looks like. We might share our snacks, our time or help someone who needs it. When children see us being kind, even when we are tired or busy, they learn to do the same.

When children observe us, they come to understand something important – that it's not about having a lot, but about caring for others. Little by little, they begin to do the same thing they have seen – offering, helping and noticing others.

During the holidays, when we have more time together, those small moments of sharing can make the days feel more special for everyone and hopefully carry into everyday life.

Dear God, thank You for the people we share our lives with. Teach us to notice others, even in the busyness of life and to respond with kindness and care. Help us to show children what it means to share and to love through our actions. Amen.



Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

18/4/26 TO 19/4/26

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Daniel V	Ann L	Maria G
Reader2	Edyn V	Teresa G	John Family
Prayers	Margaret B	Nigel M	Lorna B
TV		Jules O	Jutrisa Family
EMHC		Catherine C	Bernadette W
EMHC		Angela S	Lorna B
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Marisa Q	Noelle T
Music		Pauline H	John T
Music		Theresa N	
Morning Tea		Marisa Q	
FLOWERS	Souraya K		

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and their enduring connection to country, waters, and culture. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

*Above all we give thanks to **God our Father**, who blesses this land, its people, and all creation. May we live in harmony, justice, and peace, guided by His love.*

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.

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

LONELY? YOU'RE NOT ALONE COME AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Join our parish volunteers and get involved in a meaningful way:

- Choir / music ministry
- Readers at Mass
- Morning tea after Mass
- Working bee & maintenance help
- Parish office support
- Fete team
- Prayer group
- Makers Table & craft group
- Sacramental team support
- Scripture teaching (training provided)
- Piety shop
- Youth group

You'll make a real difference in the parish and find a welcoming community of friendship and faith.

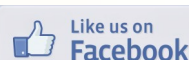
Contact Paula at the parish office:
9653 2312

DID YOU KNOW...

In the Catholic faith, believing is not just about seeing — it is about trusting God's love and presence even when we cannot feel or fully understand it.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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



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.

