

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



STOP DOUBTING
and
BELIEVE

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 10:00am to 11:00am
Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)



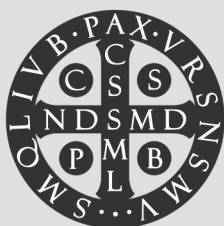
MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

6 & 7 APRIL 2024

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God,
who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

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: PEACE

Sundays' Gospel, John 20:19-31, Thomas the disciple
said 'Unless I see the holes they made, and unless I can
put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

Brave, honest Thomas had gone off to grieve on his own, so
he missed that meeting with the Lord. I can taste some of
his isolation and resentment in his Unless.... I will not
believe. I have suffered in this way when I isolated myself
from the community of faith. It is when I am stunned by
sorrow that I most need the company of friends and the
support of faith.

sacredspace.com

- Where is there lack of peace in my life?
- Who do I need to make peace with?
- Do I make space to experience God's forgiveness and gift of peace?
- Would I have believed if I was Thomas?
- Is there a little bit of Thomas in me?



Lord,
Help me find peace in my life and make peace with
others. Forgive me so I may find peace in my heart.
Amen.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

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 John 5:1-6 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St John

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are 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 they made, and unless I can put my hand 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.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, April 7

Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

My Lord and my God! (John 20:28)

Why wasn't Thomas with the other apostles the first time Jesus appeared to them? Maybe Thomas was so discouraged that he just wanted to be alone, or perhaps he was hiding somewhere else. Whatever the case, he didn't believe that Jesus had really appeared to the disciples that night (John 20:25). He had to see the risen Christ for himself.

Jesus knew this, so exactly one week later, he appeared again, this time to all the apostles. When Jesus invited Thomas to put his hand in his wounds, Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

What an appropriate Gospel passage for Divine Mercy Sunday! In his great mercy, Jesus deeply desired that Thomas believe that he had truly risen—so much so that he may have come back especially for him.

The Gospels are filled with examples of Jesus' mercy, from his healing of people who were blind or sick to his compassion for those who were far from home and needed something to eat. Of course, his greatest act of mercy was his self-offering on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

"Tell the world about my inconceivable mercy." That's the message Jesus gave to the Polish nun Sr. Faustina Kowalska in 1931 (*Diary*, 699). This is a mercy that knows no bounds, that longs for every single person to receive it and be saved, no matter how far they have strayed. We have trouble conceiving it because it is so unlike anything we have ever encountered here on earth!

No matter how long we've followed Jesus, we are all in need of his mercy and compassion. Even Thomas, his very own apostle, needed it! Today make time to gaze on the Divine Mercy image of Jesus and ask him to give you the grace to believe in the depths of his mercy. Then exclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

"Jesus, have mercy on me and on the whole world!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

APRIL

Monday 8 Readings: Is 7:10-14, 8:10. Heb 10:4-10. Lk 1:26-38.

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

The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD

Tuesday 9 Readings: Acts 4:32-37. Jn 3:7-15.

R: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Wednesday 10 Readings: Acts 5:27-26. Jn 3:16-21.

R: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Thursday 11 Readings: Acts 5:27-33. Jn 3:31-36.

R: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

St Stanislaus, bishop, martyr

Friday 12 Readings: Acts 5:34-42. Jn 6:1-15.

R: One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.

Saturday 13 Readings: Acts 6:1-7. Jn 6:16-21.

R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

St Martin I, pope, martyr



*Dear Lord,
We thank You for giving us Your
martyr, St. Stanislaus, as an
example of holiness.
Help us to imitate the openness
to Your will that he showed by
answering Your call to serve You
in the priesthood.
Amen*

Source: Ordo 2024



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2024

For the role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

MASS TIMES

Monday April 8:

7am Monastery
9.30am Parish



Today's celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord recalls the historical event of the Angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, as found in Luke 1:26–38. It also celebrates the Church's faith in the underlying reality that took place at that moment in time.

It celebrates the Incarnation, making this solemnity not only a Marian solemnity, but first and foremost a Christological one. Though Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, the Annunciation commemorates the Incarnation within the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Most certainly, this solemnity is also a Marian celebration. We celebrate the Virgin Mary's perfect "Yes" to the plan of the Father. We celebrate her humility, obedience, docility, and especially her motherhood of God and man.

This solemnity is also a celebration of the Father in Heaven because it reveals the beginning of the pinnacle of His perfect plan of salvation. That moment in time, the moment of the Incarnation, holds significance beyond comprehension. This moment was in the mind of the Father in Heaven from all eternity and took place in a hidden way, known only to this lowly and humble virgin.

Prayer: *Most glorious and ever-virgin Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to you to announce the coming of God within your virginal womb, you inquired with humility how this could be. The Archangel spoke further, and you assented to this divine mystery with all your heart. Please pray for me, that I may always consent to the will of God in my life so that your divine Son may also be conceived in my soul to continue His saving work of redemption. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: mycatholic.life

ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE



There is also the **FRUIT & VEGGIE** stand!

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

If anyone can stay back and help with the packing up after the fete we would really appreciate it!

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the fete, who donated items, gifts and vouchers. Who helped set up and offered help. We greatly appreciate it!

ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE

RAFFLE TICKETS

Please **bring back your raffle tickets** that are sold as soon as possible. Final chance at the fete.

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 Robin. Otherwise tickets will be sold on the fete day. **The calf raffle will be drawn at a later date.**



MASS WITH BISHOP ANTHONY ON ANZAC DAY

Bishop Anthony will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral at 10.30am on ANZAC Day, Thursday 25 April,

and extends a very warm invitation to clergy and the People of God in Broken Bay.

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:



TANIA TASSONE

Thank you for helping organise the fete. Also for the morning teas. Your help in the office as well. God bless you in all you do for our parish!

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation, students in year 3 and above.



Confirmation Eucharist Reconciliation

CRAFT GROUP



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

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.
Everyone welcome.

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

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Term 1 is finishing soon, last day is 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@bbcatholic.org.au

God bless,
Miriam Brown
srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator



ENCOUNTER - YOUNG ADULT EVENT

Join us for an unforgettable evening of spiritual growth and community at Encounter, our upcoming young adult event! On Friday, April 19, starting at 6PM, we'll begin with Holy Hour and Reconciliation, followed by a delicious dinner and a special guest speaker, Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

This is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your faith, connect with other young adults, and be inspired by Bishop Randazzo's insights. To secure your spot, please RSVP by April 15.

Don't miss out on this enriching experience! RSVP by contacting the Vocations Office at 0418 522 449 or 02 83791626, or email us at

vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au.

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The parish is looking to make the parish bulletin available electronically. The print version will still remain.

If you are interested in receiving the parish bulletin via email, please provide your email address to the parish office via:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Please note, the bulletin is always available every week on the parish website as well as Facebook.

IGNITE YOUR SPIRIT WEEKEND

19 – 21 April

The Grail in Australia is organising the Ignite Your Spirit weekend at Jamberoo Abbey for young adults aged 18 to mid-30s.

It offers a wonderful opportunity for youth leaders and other young adults to reconnect with their purpose, meet like-minded people and experience a strong sense of connection, peace and joy.

[Flyer](#)

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Feast Day: April 13

C. 595-655



Quote:

It is now forty-seven days since I have been permitted to wash myself either in cold or warm water. I am quite wasted and chilled, and have had no respite either upon sea or land from the flux which I suffer. My body is broken and spent, and, when I would take any nourishment, I want such kind of food as is necessary to support me; and have a perfect aversion and loathing to what I have. But I hope that God, who knows all things, when he shall have taken me out of this world, will bring my persecutors to repentance. ~Words attributed to Saint Martin in Butler's Lives of the Saints

Saint Martin lived during a time of theological and political tension between the Western church centered in Rome and the Eastern church centered in Constantinople. After the fall of the Roman Empire in the sixth century, newly elected popes had to obtain approval from the Byzantine emperor before being consecrated, putting the emperors in charge of Church governance.

Martin was born in a small town about 100 miles north of Rome. He was of noble birth, an excellent student, and exercised charity to the poor. As a cleric, Martin became Pope Theodore I's papal legate to Constantinople, where he represented Pope Theodore in all matters with the emperor and patriarch.

The most pressing theological issue that Martin faced was the ongoing debate about the nature of Christ. Many within the Eastern Church adhered to monothelism, a heresy claiming that Christ had only a divine will, not a human will. The pope held the orthodox position that Jesus had both a human and divine will. In 648, in an attempt to end the debate, the Byzantine emperor Constans II issued the *Type of Constans (Type)* that attempted a middle path by forbidding discussion of the controversy and permitting everyone to adhere to his own position. The Patriarch of Constantinople, Paul II, embraced the emperor's *Type*, but Martin did not.

One year later, Pope Theodore died after naming Martin as his successor. Customarily, the newly elected pope was supposed to receive the Byzantine emperor's approval before his installation. For the first time in more than 100 years, Martin immediately moved forward with his coronation without the emperor's consent. This angered Constans, but he did nothing about it—at first.

Pope Martin quickly called the Lateran Council of 649, making monothelism the topic of discussion. The Lateran Council provided much direction for the Church's future in its teaching and in excluding the emperor from Church governance. The council was attended by 105 bishops, held five sessions, and issued twenty decrees condemning monothelism, including the *Type*.

When Pope Martin published this new teaching, the enraged emperor sought to have him arrested, or even killed. After several attempts, a Byzantine army captured the pope and brought him to Constantinople. Pope Martin was already ill when he was captured; abuse and lack of decent food caused his condition to worsen during the three months at sea.

Pope Martin was put on trial and found guilty of treason for not accepting the *Type*. Through Patriarch Paul II's intervention, the emperor sentenced Martin to exile in Crimea instead of death. Though elderly and sick, Martin was continually abused, malnourished, and ridiculed.

The emperor successfully ordered the Church in Rome to elect a new pope – a final blow to the abused pontiff. Pope Martin, seeking only the good of the Church, acquiesced. Of all he suffered, his abandonment by the Church leaders pained him the most. Not long after being exiled, Pope Martin died due to the abuses, exposure, and malnourishment he endured. The Church considers him a martyr, the last pope to receive that crown.

Saint Martin, your mind was imbued with the orthodox faith, and your will was strengthened with courage. You did not hesitate to do what was right, despite the consequences. Please pray that I may have your courage and clarity of mind so that I will be a greater instrument of God's truth. Saint Martin, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

CATHOLIC CARE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AGED CARE VOLUNTEER VISITORS SCHEME
www.catholiccarebb.org.au/volunteer

CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay

WANT TO JOIN OUR FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM?

CatholicCare are seeking volunteers for our Aged Care Volunteers Visitors Scheme (formerly known as the Community Visitors Scheme). As a volunteer you will visit seniors in a local aged care facility or in their own home and help improve their quality of life. Our volunteers have flexibility to choose a day and time that suits them, we just ask for a commitment of at least one hour per fortnight.

Affectionately referred to as CatholicCare's 'friendship program', you will be able to build new connections and positive relationships with someone who will greatly appreciate your company.

Please call (02) 9481 2600 or visit www.catholiccarebb.org.au/volunteer/ for more information.

GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (GCEA)

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR SRE TEACHER PAUL EL-CHAAR

As we journey through this academic term, it began with a gentle pace but quickly gathered momentum, and now, as we stand on the threshold of term 2, we find ourselves on the cusp of the most sacred season in the Christian calendar. The time is near when we shall once again commemorate the central mysteries of our faith: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the glorious Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. This holy season offers a profound opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, to immerse themselves in the Scriptures, and to encounter the living Word in the Bible.

In addition to our spiritual journey, this month brought a momentous occasion for our school community. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of Galston High School's foundation, a landmark that symbolizes not only half a century of educational excellence but also a steadfast commitment to nurturing the minds and spirits of our students. It was a true blessing to join with students, teachers, and staff in a grand photograph on the oval, a testament to our shared history and collective aspirations.

Our mission to teach the faith and share the Bible, embracing the diverse traditions of Christian denominations within our area, has been a source of great joy and fulfillment. The Special Religious Education (SRE) program, under the guidance of the Galston Christian Education Association (GCEA), has been a beacon of light for over 40 years, offering unified Christian teaching that enriches our school community. This collaboration is a testament to our shared commitment to sow seeds of faith that will, by God's grace, bear fruit in the lives of our students.

Let us give thanks to God for His unending blessings upon our school, for the grace to share His love and truth with the next generation, and for the community of faith that supports and enriches our educational mission.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,
Paul El-Chaar

THANK YOU!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. **If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week** or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

13/4/2024 TO 14/4/2024
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B

	Saturday 7.00pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Kathryn S	Lorraine D	Michael E
Reader2	Miriam B	Ann L	Lorna B
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Paula E	Leon J
TV		Jules O	Xavier F
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Adam F
Music		Theresa N	Martina J
Music		Nigel M	
Morning Tea		Lila B	
 FLOWERS	Hannah A		



Jesus, Light of the
world communities

Walk by
FAITH not
by SIGHT

2 Corinthians 5:6-8



Day Retreat with Mother Mary
13 April 2024 (Saturday)

Rev Fr Rey Sentillas, MI
Retreat Facilitator

Venue: St Joseph's Parish Hall,
Walz St, Rockdale NSW (Parking entry at Parker St)

Time: 9am - 5.30pm including MASS

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea is FREE

Bookings essential for the purpose of catering

Enquiries: Helen on 0433 455 114 or Ida 0424 267 500

E: jlowcommunity@gmail.com | W: www.jlowcom.org

PRAYER FOR

Refugees and Victims of War

Lord God,

No one is a stranger to you
And no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness, watch over refugees and
victims of war,
Those separated from their loved ones,
Young people who are lost,
And those who have left home or who have
run away from home.
Bring them back safely to the place where
they long to be,
And help us always to show your kindness
to strangers and to all in need. Amen.

- Author Unknown

Thank you to all our volunteers, we really
appreciate it!

If anyone would like to join our parish roster
please contact the parish office.



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: [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)

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.