St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

24 & 25 FEBRUARY 2024

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

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

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
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.*

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



SELF REFLECTION: TRANSFIGURED

Sundays' Gospel, *Mark 9:2-10*, "Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured."

- Can I recall any of my peak moments when praying?
- Do I see Jesus as the Son of God?
- Do I feel Jesus bringing me down the mountain to prepare me for hard times ahead?
- Have I been "transfigured" whilst in deep prayer?
- Can I commit myself to 'listen to him' as God invites me to pray?



Lord our God, when Your Son was transfigured. You gave eyes of faith to the apostles to see beyond appearances. Help me see beyond so I can be transfigured in deep prayer. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 (JB)

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven,



'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: *Romans 8:31-34 (JB)*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans *God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.



The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: *Mark* 9:2-10 (*JB*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark *This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*



Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

2nd Sunday in Lent February 25 Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 Psalm 116:10, 15-19 Romans 8:31-34 Mark9:2-10

They kept the matter to themselves. (Mark 9:10)

Today we hear Mark's account of Jesus' transfiguration and get a snapshot of his divinity. Six days after predicting his death and resurrection, Jesus shows his glory to Peter, James, and John (Mark 8:31; 9:2-8). In a flash, the disciples' eyes were opened. They could see who Jesus truly was. He is more than a good rabbi, a miraculous healer, or a gifted preacher. He is greater than even Moses or Elijah! Jesus is God.

They didn't fully grasp their mountaintop vision or how they would need to cling to it as Jesus headed toward the cross. They didn't know how their faith would be tested or how important it was that Jesus was more than just a man. And they didn't know what Jesus meant when he said he would die and rise again. But Jesus knew. That's why he told them to keep the revelation to themselves until he "had had risen from the dead" (Mark 9:9).

In his transfiguration, Jesus was giving his disciples a gift to sustain them for the day of his crucifixion. On that day there would not be three tents but three crosses. Jesus would not stand between Moses and Elijah; he would hang between "two revolutionaries" (Mark 15:27). On that day they would abandon their teacher and Lord to his cruel end. But Jesus' transfiguration not only helped the disciples during his crucifixion. Even more, it foreshadowed an even greater revelation of his divinity: the resurrection!

Jesus' glory was just as present on the cross as it was on the mountaintop. The disciples just couldn't see it. They needed a heavenly perspective—and so do we. That's why Jesus invites us to go up the mountain every day for a glimpse of his glory: to see Jesus, the Son of God, who will be with us always, to the end of time.

So whether you're at Mass or confined to your bed, look to Jesus today. Ask him to open your eyes. Let him strengthen your faith and fill you with hope!

"Jesus, help me to see your glory."

Source: Word Among Us India

Source: Ordo 2024

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

FEBRUARY

Monday 26 Readings: Dan 9:4-10. Lk 6:36-38.

R: Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.

Tuesday 27 Readings: Is 1:10, 16-20. Mt 23:1-12.

R: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

St Gregory of Narek, abbot, doctor.

Wednesday 28 Readings: Jer 18:18-20. Mt 20:17-28.

R: Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.

Thursday 29 Readings: Jer 17:5-10. Lk 16:19-31.

R: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

MARCH

Friday 1 Readings: Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28. Mt 21:33-43, 45-46.

R: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

AUTUMN EMBER DAY Special Day of Prayer and Penance

Saturday 2 Readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20. Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

EMBER DAYS SACRIFICE & SPIRITUAL GROWTH EMBER DAYS ARE KEPT FOUR TIMES DURING THE LITURGICAL YEAR IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING: ASH WEDNESDAY, PENTECOST, FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, AND THE FEAST OF ST. LUCY.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2024



For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

FATHER ALBERIC IN NURSING HOME

Our dear Father Alberic has been moved to a nursing home in respite for a month. He would love to see visitors! If anyone would like to visit him he is at:

Our Lady of Grace Nursing Home 454 Old Northern Road, Dural.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Come experience God's love and God's grace. From Friday 8 March to Saturday 9 March we are invited to join with the universal Church around the world in observing "24 Hours for the Lord" – a way to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration.

Starting with 9am Mass on Friday at Our Lady of Dolours Church, 94 Archer Street Chatswood and ending with 9am Mass the next morning, with Eucharistic adoration and hourly Confession, we are invited to draw near to the Father who is truly "rich in mercy", and abundantly extends His mercy on those who appeal to Him with a sincere heart. If you would like to be a Guardian for an hour during this time, please contact Olivia Lee in Chatswood Parish via email; Olivia.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

CHRISM MASS 2024

Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Waitara

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 26 March** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our Diocese.

Please let Fr Shansana know if you would like to attend with him.



ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE



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

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

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

Also we are looking for a **talented parishioner** who can do face painting and colouring-in.

We are still in need of good quality items. Loose items need to be in boxes. Unwanted gifts too. We also need **NEW gifts** for chocolate wheel.

Next Fete meeting date: 19th March 7.15pm.

For more information please contact Fr Shansana.



Light to the Nations is an Easter Pilgrimage event held biannually for Catholics (singles and families) aged 16+. Camp under the open skies with up to 1,000+ as we celebrate the Easter Triduum. The event will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville from 28-31 March 2024.

Visit <u>www.lttn.org.au</u> for more information and register today.

Contact rego@lttn.org.au or ring Therese MGL on 0432 228 250.

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, Greg Lambert, Joe Gatt, Gina Volpato (John's mum), 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:

THERESA NEELY

Thank you for your previous hard work as parish secretary for so many years and past Sacramental Coordinator. Your amazing volunteer time and help with everything the parish needed. Also for your beautiful singing at Mass. You do so much for us it is greatly appreciated. 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.

LENTEN GROUP

Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone encouraging our community to make Lent much more meaningful and spiritual. Reflecting on God's Word together and applying the Sunday readings to daily life. Seeking God together and praying for one another.

Commencing Wednesday 21st February at 7pm (until Good Friday)

Address: 726A Old Northern Road, Dural.
Ph: Benigna 0450 311 951

The Ph: Benigna 0450 311 951

Program led by Gebran Azzi.

Everyone welcome!

(If you would like to hold a Lenten group at your place during Lent on another night or day please contact the parish office or Father Shansana.)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RESUMES

For those already enrolled First Reconciliation Classes begin:

Classes begin:

Season

Lent

Group 1 MONDAYS:

February 19 2024 until 11th March 2024 – 4.15pm to 5.15pm

Group 2 WEDNESDAYS:

Wednesdays 21 February 2024 until 13th March 2024 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

First Reconciliation on – Saturday 16th March 2024 – 9.00am

(our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation).

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Thank you to those who have enquired about becoming Catechists. It is wonderful to see the support we have from the parish for this worthwhile ministry! We look forward to welcoming our new Catechists over the coming weeks.

This year we are teaching just under 190 students in the five local public primary schools — Arcadia, Galston, Glenorie, Hillside and Middle Dural.

Please continue to pray for our students and Catechists throughout the year.

God bless,

Miriam Brown

srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

WATCH THIS SPACE!

We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-11yr olds** is in the pipeline!

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

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

Thank you to the **Rizkallah family** who have donated the basketball stand and ring as well as the **Volpato family** donating the table tennis. It is very much appreciated! God bless your families!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday mornings 9am Friday nights 6.30pm

You are all invited to Stations of the Cross inside the Parish Church every Wednesday morning 9am and Friday nights 6:30pm for prayer, reflection and meditation on Christ's Passion.



CRAFT GROUP



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

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

Wednesday morning: after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

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

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.

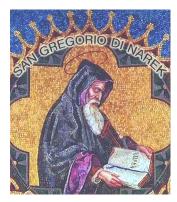
For more details call Angela Egiziano on 9653 2312.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Feast Day: February 27 C. 951-1003



Reflection: The Apostles Saint Jude Thaddeus and Saint Bartholomew are believed to have traveled to Armenia to share the Gospel. In 301, the Armenian king was converted who, in turn, made Christianity the kingdom's official religion, making Armenia the first nation to do so. In the centuries that followed, churches and monasteries were built, the faith was taught, liturgies were celebrated, and an extensive Christian culture emerged.

In the year 451, the Armenian Church separated from the Church of Rome over disagreements on doctrine from the Council of Chalcedon. Though the Armenian Church remained an apostolic Church, being founded by the Apostles, it became separated from the pope. Its Sacraments and life of prayer continued, but the division also continued. In recent decades, greater attempts at unification have been made, and the saint we honor today is the most recent attempt by the Roman Church to unite with the Eastern Church of Armenia more fully.

By the tenth century, the Kingdom of Armenia was celebrated for its faith, many churches, literature, art, and architecture. It was a relatively peaceful time. In the year 951, a boy named Gregory was born near Lake Van, the largest lake in the Kingdom of Armenia, modern-day Turkey. His mother died when he was young. His father was the ruling prince of the Andzevatsiq province and also an Armenian bishop and scholar. His father was vocally supportive of some of the teachings of the Council of Chalcedon and believed that the head of the Armenian Church, called the Catholicos, enjoyed only the rank of bishop. This did not sit well with the Catholicos, who later excommunicated Gregory's father from the Armenian Church.

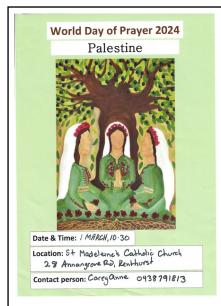
After their mother's death, Gregory and his older brother were sent to live at the Monastery of Narek, under the guardianship of their maternal great-uncle Abbot Anania, the monastery's founder. At about the age of twenty-six, Gregory was ordained a priest for the monastery and remained there for the rest of his life, teaching theology in the monastery's school. The loss of his mother early in life led Gregory to a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother. He would later write, "This spiritual, heavenly mother of light cared for me as a son more than an earthly, breathing, physical mother could (*Prayer 75*)." Shortly after his ordination to the priesthood, Gregory wrote a commentary on the Song of Songs. He also wrote commentary on the Book of Job, numerous chants, homilies, and speeches that sang the praises of holy men. Toward the end of his life, he wrote his most famous work, *The Book of Lamentations*, or, as it is commonly known today, *The Book of Narek*.

Gregory's father had taught him to remain in a state of continuous dialogue with God, ever attentive to His divine presence. *The Book of Narek* seems to flow from Gregory's ongoing dialogue. The book is a compilation of ninety-five prayers. Each prayer begins with the phrase, "Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart." The prayers then go on to express the deepest love of God by a soul that seems troubled, and even tormented at times. The torment, however, is not despair, but an interior expression of hope from a soul who is in touch with his fallen humanity and sin, while at the same time keenly aware of God's mercy. His prayers reflect the psalms and are similar to Saint Augustine's *Confessions*. Saint Gregory states that these prayers were written "by the finger of God" (*Prayer 34*) and that Gregory saw God, as he says, "with my own eyes" (*Prayer 27f*). In one of the final prayers, Gregory states, "although I shall die in the way of all mortals, may I be deemed to live through the continued existence of this book...This book will cry out in my place, with my voice, as if it were me" (*Prayer 88b; c*). He believed his book was written not only for himself, his monks, or the Armenian people, but for all people, for the entire world.

Less than a century after Saint Gregory's death, the Kingdom of Armenia was invaded by the Byzantines, then by the Turks. In the centuries that followed, these once-flourishing people suffered greatly under foreign domination. This suffering culminated in the twentieth century during the Armenian genocide when the Turks murdered an estimated 1–1.8 million Armenians. Throughout those centuries of great suffering and oppression, Saint Gregory's book of prayers became the daily prayers of the Armenian people. Everyone had a printed copy; many people even slept with a copy under their pillow. In 2015, when the pope declared Saint Gregory a Doctor of the Church, and in 2021 when Saint Gregory was placed on the liturgical calendar for the Roman Church, his book of prayers suddenly became prayers for the entire world. They are prayers that need to be prayed by all people today so that the world will humble itself before God and become acutely aware of its sin and need for God's mercy. Let us conclude with the conclusion of Saint Gregory's final prayer.

Prayer: Prepare the earth for the day of light and let the soil bloom and bring forth fruit, heavenly cup of life-giving blood, ever sacrificed, never running dry all for the salvation and life of the souls in eternal rest. And though my body die in sin, with Your grace and compassion, may I be strengthened in You, cleansed of sin through You, and renewed by You with life everlasting, and at the resurrection of the righteous be deemed worthy of Your Father's blessing. To Him together with You, all glory, and with the Holy Spirit, praise and resounding thanks, now, always and forever, A

Source: mycatholic.life



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

"The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year."

"I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love" Ephesians 4:1-3

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.









PROJECT COMPASSION

Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

2/3/2024 TO 3/3/2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

| | Saturday 7.00pm | Sunday 9.00am | Sunday 10.30am |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Acolyte | | Nigel M | Paul E |
| Reader1 | Sr Carol T | Peter G | CHILDREN'S |
| Reader2 | Margaret B | Kath M | CHILDREN'S |
| Prayers | Maria G | Ann L | CHILDREN'S |
| TV | | Teresa G | Leon/Mirko J |
| Music | | Melanie H | Karina S |
| Music | | Theresa N | Noelle T |
| Music | | Pauline H | John T |
| Music | | Keith W | |
| Morning Tea | | Mary A | |
| FLOWERS | NO FLOWERS DURING LENT | | |

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

If anyone would like to join our parish roster

please contact the parish office.



ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

FATHER MICHAEL KELLY

27/02/1965 - 59 years

Congratulations and best wishes on the Anniversary of your Religious profession commitment.

The parish of St Benedict's give thanks to the Lord for Father Michael's vocation and his faithful commitment to the Lord. May God continue to bless and accompany him to be a wonderful instrument in proclaiming His mercy and love.

DRAFT ROSTER

DRAFT ROSTER IS NOW OUTSIDE OF SACRISTY WINDOW

PLEASE CHECK YOUR NAMES

CHILDREN'S MASS NEXT SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

10.30AM

FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The parish is looking to make the parish bulletin available electronically.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help:

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com

After hours: 0437 884 233

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

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

MONASTERY: 9653 1159

Like us on Facebook

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.