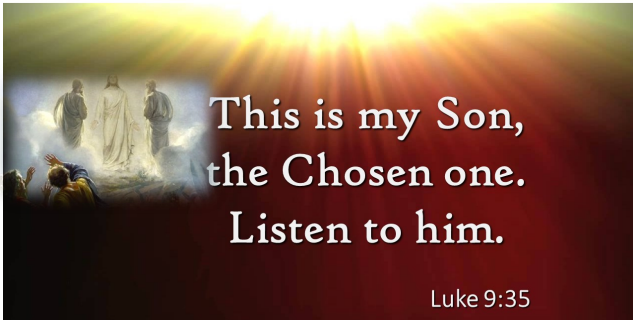


St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 15 & 16 MARCH 2025



Luke 9:35

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 9:00am to 10:00am
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**

Parish Priest:
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233



ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

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.

SELF REFLECTION: TRANSFIGURATION

In Luke 9:28-36, the Transfiguration reveals Jesus' divine nature, reminding me that there are moments in life when God's glory breaks through, yet I often fail to recognise it. This passage challenges me to be more attentive and open to hearing God's voice, trusting in His presence even when it feels overwhelming or unclear.

- *How often do I recognise and appreciate God's presence in my life?*
- *Do I listen attentively to Jesus' voice, especially in moments of uncertainty or awe?*
- *How can I grow in my understanding of God's glory and allow it to transform me?*
- *What fears or distractions prevent me from fully experiencing God's revelation?*
- *How can I be more open to moments where God is speaking or showing me His truth?*

Lord,

Help me recognise Your presence in my life, just as the disciples witnessed Your glory on the mountain. Open my heart to listen to Your voice and trust in Your guidance, even when I feel uncertain or afraid.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 (JB)

A reading from the book of Genesis

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,

from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

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: Luke 9:28-36 (JB)

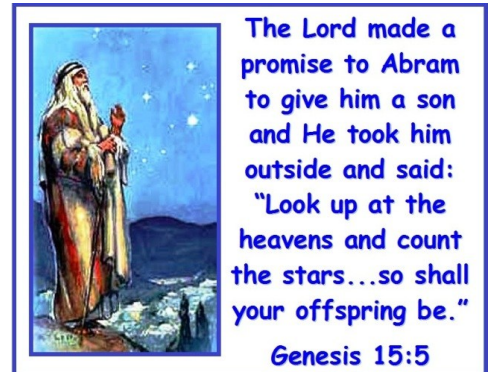
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday March 16, 2025

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus Still Shows Us His Glory Through the Bible

How do we know about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? We read about Jesus in the Bible. But the Bible is more than a book of stories. It is God's word.

Just as God spoke through Moses and Elijah, God speaks through the Bible to us. The Holy Spirit directed people to write down God's message so people could come to know their Creator and come to follow their Savior. The direction the Spirit gave is called "Inspiration." In this way, the Bible teaches us the truth about God "firmly, faithfully, and without error" (CCC 107).

There are two parts to the Bible: the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament tells us how God created the world, called the Israelites to be his people, and was active with his people. The Old Testament can be divided into four sections: 1) the Law, 2) the Prophets, 3) history of his people and 4) Wisdom writings (Psalms and other books of sayings). On the mountain, Moses and Elijah represented the Old Testament.

Jesus represents the New Testament. This part of the Bible focuses on the Lord and his Church. The New Testament can be divided into four sections: 1) the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), 2) the Book of Acts (a history of the early Church), 3) letters from Paul and other writers, and the 4) Book of Revelations.

Together, the Old and New Testaments tell us about our life with God, as both point to Jesus, God's living Word. In Jesus, we find everything God is and everything God says to us. We honor the Bible as God's word because it shows us God's Eternal Word, the Christ. The Bible shows us where Jesus came from, why he came, and where he went. It tells us Jesus did all this for us.

The challenge of the future should give us pause. And a chance to pray. What challenges lie on your horizon this week? How have you placed them in prayer?

Source: www.word-sunday.com

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MARCH

- Monday 17 Readings: Jer 1:4-9. Acts 13:46-49. Lk 10:1-12, 17-20.
R: Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.
ST PATRICK, bishop.
- Tuesday 18 Readings: Is 1:10, 16-20. Mt 23:1-12.
R: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.
St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor.
- Wednesday 19 Readings: 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16. Rom 4:13,16-18,22.
Mt1:16,18-21,24.
R: The son of David will live for ever.
ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- Thursday 20 Readings: Jer 17:5-10. Lk 16:19-31.
R: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
- Friday 21 Readings: Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28. Mt 21:33-43,45-46.
R: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.
- Saturday 22 Readings: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20. Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.
R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

St Joseph, watch over the Parish Church of St Benedict's.

Through your intercession, may God's fullest blessing be upon our Priests and parishioners.

As you provided for Mary and Jesus, bless us with a Church and stable home.

Grant us a generous spirit and patience to endure joyfully whatever challenges or crosses Our Lord may ask us to carry.

St Joseph, faithful guardian of Christ, Pray for us.

Amen

Source: Ordo 2025



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2025

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

CONGRATULATIONS FATHER MICHAEL

We celebrated Fr Michael's golden jubilee for his 60th year anniversary of Religious Profession last Sunday.

Here is a photo of the special occasion.



REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of the late:



NAJM GEBRAN AZZI

Husband to Aida Azzi

He passed away gracefully surrounded by his family.

Condolences will be held at:

Our Lady Of Lebanon Hall
on Monday 17th March from 6 to 9 PM.

The funeral mass will be held at:

Our Lady Of Lebanon, Harris Park,
on Tuesday 18th March at 10:30 AM.

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

***Our prayers and thoughts are with
Aida and the Azzi families.***

ST BENEDICT'S YOUNG ADULTS FEEDING THE HOMELESS



Date: Saturday 29th March 2025

Address: 164 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

I would like to announce the beginning of a young adults charity group here at St Benedict's. The purpose of this is to enable more young people, like myself, to take up almsgiving this lent and throughout the rest of the year.

On the 29th of March, there is a need for meals and people to go into the city and feed those in need.

We will need 6 large meals, fit to feed about 30 people each, and around 6 volunteers. Preferably the volunteers will bring a large meal with them but we would also be very appreciative of any donations of food toward the cause.

You need to prepare a meal and donate it or can also help serve it.

I would appreciate it if people who are interested get in touch and let me know if they can donate food, volunteer or both.

Look forward to hearing from you

Sam John
0491031622

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us for the Stations of the Cross on:

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM, followed by Mass at 9:30 AM

Fridays: 6:30 PM, followed by Mass at 7:00 PM

We look forward to journeying through this sacred season together in prayer and reflection at the Parish Church.

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 Pellegrino Vacarella, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, Father Alberic.

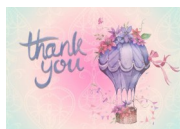
**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died,
Especially Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana,
Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry
& Colleen Bennett**

~ May they rest in Peace.



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



TANYA JOHN

Volunteer of the Week goes to Tanya John! A big thank you to Tanya for generously volunteering her time to teach the Sacramental Program on Friday afternoons. Your time, dedication, and willingness to help make a difference are truly appreciated. Your contribution is a blessing to all involved!

If you know someone who deserves to be recognised as next week's volunteer, please send an email to the parish.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Benigna Cascun will be hosting a Lenten Program in her home:

726a Old Northern Road, Dural.
Every Wednesday night commencing
12th March 2025
Time 7.00pm
Led by Gebran Azzi.

Miriam Brown will be hosting a Lenten Program at the Parish meeting room:

2 Fagans Road, Arcadia.
Every Wednesday afternoon commencing
12th March 2025
Time: 1.00pm
Led by Miriam Brown

Everyone is invited to attend and deepen their faith during this season of Lent.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

- **Fridays SCHOOL TERM**
- Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
- Ages: 8-12 years old



If you are aged 14-16 and would like to help out, please email the parish office.

All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks.

Thank you,
Gabe & Jules!

CATECHISTS' NEWS

This week and next week, I would like to reflect on the role of the Catechist in our State schools in this Jubilee Year of Hope as expressed by Michael Tebbutt of the CCD – "As SRE Catechists, we are already living as pilgrims of hope by stepping out of our comfortable spaces and journeying into public school classrooms to share the love and truth of Christ. While our students may not be suffering in obvious ways, we know they face a world often filled with confusion, challenges and a lack of deeper meaning."

Free Ministry Induction training continues for all new Catechists. This week's topic is 'Development of the Child and Adolescent' via Zoom.

Please continue to keep our Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers. There are prayer cards at the church entrances you may wish to take home.

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:



WAFFA MOUSSA

(Sister of Sue Habib)



The funeral Mass will be held at:
Our Lady Of Lebanon, Harris Park,
on Monday 17th March at 10:30 AM.

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

Our prayers and thoughts are with Sue Habib and family and the Moussa families.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**
Everyone welcome.



For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

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!

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor



Feast Day: March 18

C.315 - 387

The legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire in 313 ended persecution, but the Church continued to suffer. Politics entered the Church, emperors inserted themselves into doctrine, and theological and territorial divisions became fierce. The theological divisions in the fourth century centred on Jesus' nature. Arius, a priest from Alexandria in North Africa, believed that the Father created the Son, making the Son subordinate to the Father and neither co-eternal nor co-equal with the Father. These teachings came to be known as the Arian Heresy. Others believed that the Son was "begotten of the Father," meaning He existed from all eternity with the Father and was of the same divine nature. This theological battle was initially addressed in the year 325 at the Council of Nicaea but was not settled until 381 by the Council of Constantinople. It was in this fifty-six-year period of Church history and controversy that today's saint was born, lived, and fought for the true faith.

Cyril was born in or near the city of Jerusalem around 315. He was well-educated in the Scriptures and philosophy prior to his ordination as a deacon and then to the priesthood at age twenty-eight. His superior, Bishop Maximus, assigned Cyril the responsibility of assisting him as a preacher and catechist. Cyril preached every Sunday and catechized those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation. A surviving set of twenty-four of his catechetical instructions are remarkable for their content and clarity. The first eighteen lessons explained what catechumens needed to know about baptism, how to change from pagan morals, the meaning of the Creed, and the errors of Arianism. Cyril's last six lessons led the newly baptized in how to live the new life they received from the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist, as well as lessons on prayer, especially found in the Lord's Prayer.

Cyril was chosen to succeed Maximus as Bishop of Jerusalem in 348. Soon after Cyril became bishop, a miraculous sign appeared over the holy site of Jesus' crucifixion. A large cross of light, surrounded by a rainbow, appeared in the sky and stretched for about two miles over the city, perhaps an affirmation of Cyril or a sign of the suffering he would endure in office. Cyril encountered opposition from bishops sympathetic to Arianism and persecution from emperors. Cyril was deposed and exiled from Jerusalem three times during his almost forty years as a bishop.

Even so, Bishop Cyril was a true shepherd of his flock, preaching and catechizing just as he had done as a priest. His gentle, pastoral, conciliatory, and humble approach to his ministry led some more orthodox bishops to suspect him of being sympathetic to the Arians. He was finally declared orthodox in his faith in 378. In 381, the Council of Constantinople gave further clarity on the Arian Heresy, clarified the Creed of Nicaea, and affirmed Bishop Cyril's office of Bishop of Jerusalem. He remained a holy shepherd of his people until his death six years later. An eyewitness to Bishop Cyril's catechetical lessons that were delivered in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre said that whenever Cyril completed a lesson, all of the people would enthusiastically applaud.

Saint Cyril, you never wavered from the Truth, not even during persecution and exile, but proclaimed Christ Jesus to your flock. Please pray for me, that I will always remain firm in my faith in a hostile world and will lovingly proclaim the truth to those who need it most. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy 28-30 March

The Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy recognises those who work to spread mercy throughout the world.

**Broken Bay Pilgrimage
Assisi | Rome | October 2025**

Broken Bay pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome with Chaplain, Fr Hien Vu on 1-10 October 2025 please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

8th & 9th of March 2025



Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) is a 13-year-old primary school student from Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result. Toefuata'iga's school community struggled without reliable access to clean water, which impacted students' education and hygiene. Teachers often had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, disrupting lessons and adding strain to the community. When the water ran out at the school, students were sent home which meant they missed out on valuable learning time.

Thanks to the support of Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, Toefuata'iga's school now has a 10,000 L water tank through a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

"Now that we have the water tank, things are so much better, we can stay at school all day, and I get to spend more time learning and playing with my friends. I'm happy that we don't have to go home early anymore." – said Toefuata'iga.

This transformative story is just one example of how Caritas Australia's Project Compassion creates waves of change around the world. Will you stand with students like Toefuata'iga this Lent?

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.



ARCADIA PARISH – FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expenses Oct 2024 to Dec 2024

Income:

Parish Giving	\$20,111.65
Other Income Piety, Candle	\$12,779.60
Interest	\$197.47
Total Income	\$33,088.72
Less	
Total Expenses	\$29,522.07

Net Profit **\$3,566.65**

RITE OF ELECT

Congratulations to the Catechumens, (Brooks family, Henry Wilton, Loubna Le Moigne), who attended the Rite of Election last Sunday at the Waitara Cathedral. It was a joy-filled celebration of hope and grace for our parish as Bishop Anthony welcomed and enrolled them as Members of the Elect.

A big thank you to our RCIA Coordinator Gebran Azzi.



LITURGICAL FORMATION SERIES

Facilitated by Chris Ohlsen

The Art of Celebrating Holy Week

Saturday 15 March

Back to Basics

Saturday 10 May

RCIA: Practical Implications, Liturgical Fundamentals & Ongoing Formation

Saturday 16 August

Rekindle Our Wonder

Saturday 25 October



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

REGISTER NOW

mission@bbcatholic.org.au

VISITING THE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We invite you to join us in a vital mission to visit the sick in our parish.

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ are struggling and in need of comfort, companionship, and prayer. This is an opportunity for us to live out our faith and extend love and care.

Additionally, if you know anyone who has not been attending Mass or engaging with the church, please let us know. It's important to reconnect and offer support to those who may feel isolated or disconnected.

Your help is essential. Together, we can bring compassion and care to those in need.

Please contact the parish office.

Parish Roster

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS**

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**22/3/2025 to 23/3/2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	George A
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Gabrielle W	Jutrisa Fam
Reader2	Natasha S	Judy H	Sandra M
Prayers	Margaret B	Matt W	Sharon O
TV		Jules O	Trey O
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		John T	Theresa N
Music		Noelle T	Jack F
Music			
Morning Tea		Mandah V	
FLOWERS	<i>No flowers</i>	<i>during lent</i>	



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

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.

**For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm
(School holidays only open Fridays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.parish@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: stbenedictsarcadia



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

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

EASTER 2025

Palm Sunday – 13th April

Monastery - 7.00am
Parish Church - 9.00am and 10.30am
Latin 4.30pm

Holy Thursday 17th April

Parish Church only - 7.30pm

Stations of the Cross - Good Friday 18th April
Parish Church - 10.30am

Passion of the Lord - Good Friday 18th April
Parish Church - 3.00pm

Easter Vigil - Holy Saturday 19th April

Parish Church - 7.30pm

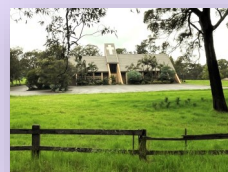


Easter Sunday - 20th April

Monastery - 7.00am
Parish Church - 9.00am
Latin 10.30am

DID YOU KNOW...

We say the Creed every mass which was written in 325AD as the statement of our core beliefs as Catholics.



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