

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



*Faith*



## PARISH Masses

### Weekend:

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

### Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am  
  
Fridays 6.30pm Adoration  
7:00pm Mass & Confession  
(Reconciliation)  
  
Saturdays 10am to 11am  
Adoration & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

## 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 ADVENT YEAR A

**3 & 4 DECEMBER 2022**

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

*Let us pray:*  
Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### REFLECTION: REPENTANCE

*Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 3:1-12, John the Baptist came to point people to the coming Jesus, to point people to true repentance, and to point people to the work of Jesus. Repent is the first word John the Baptist says in the Gospel.*

- **Has the coming of Jesus moved me towards genuine change for the better?**
- **What changes has the coming of Jesus done in my life?**
- **Have I been baptised as a sign that I have been changed by Jesus?**
- **When was the last time I pointed someone to Jesus?**
- **Am I willing to leave my self-life and go forward in the right direction with Jesus?**



*Dear Lord,*

*I am so privileged to follow You. Help me change and move closer towards You. Help me point others to You. Help me repent and follow You and live for You in every part of my life for true inner peace and spiritual joy. Amen.*

**First Reading****Isaiah 11:1-10 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

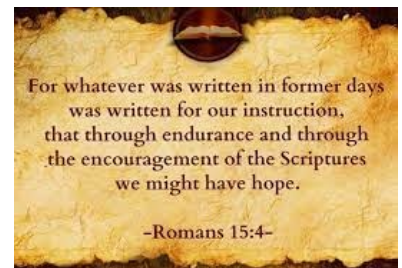
**The word of the Lord.****Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.****Second Reading****Romans 15:4-9 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL****Matthew 3:1-12 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

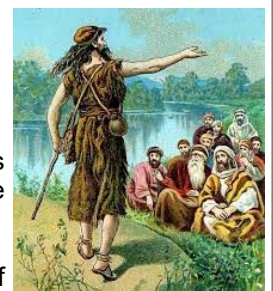
*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then

Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent, December 4**  
**Isaiah 11:1-10**  
**Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**  
**Romans 15:4-9**  
**Matthew 3:1-12**

*The ax lies at the root of the trees. (Matthew 3:10)*

John the Baptist was enjoying great success in convincing people to respond to his call to repentance. People from all around Israel, and from every walk of life, were coming out to be washed clean of their sins and to recommit themselves to the law of the Lord. But things didn't go so smoothly when some Pharisees and Sadducees showed up. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," John challenged them (Matthew 3:8). Don't come just for a washing. Actually change your life.

For John, repentance without change was like cutting off one branch of a tree when plenty of other branches are still bearing bad fruit. You need to take an "ax" to the entire root system that feeds all the branches (Matthew 3:10). You need to ask the Lord to cut away the foundational attitudes and root sins that keep feeding all the other sins.

What are these roots? They differ with each person. Maybe they include longstanding resentments, positions of pride and self-sufficiency and prejudice, selfish desires, or a lack of compassion. Whatever they are, we have to trust that as we ask the Lord to cut away these roots, we'll find freedom and a greater ability to change.

God wants to give us a new way of thinking and acting. He wants to replace our foolishness with his wisdom. He wants to give us insights into his love and all that he can do in our hearts. And he wants to give us strength to obey his commands. But we have to come to him and confess our need.

At Mass today, you will be invited to cry out, "Lord, have mercy." But you will also ask Jesus, "Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed." Jesus loves to forgive your sins, but he longs to heal your soul—your "roots"—even more. So welcome him in. Ask his Spirit to keep making you into a new creation.

*"Come, Lord, teach me to bear fruit in keeping with my repentance."*

(Source: Word Among Us India Dec22-Jan23 Pg 4)

**LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

Monday 5      Readings: Is 35:1-10. Lk 5:17-26  
**R:** Our God will come to save us!

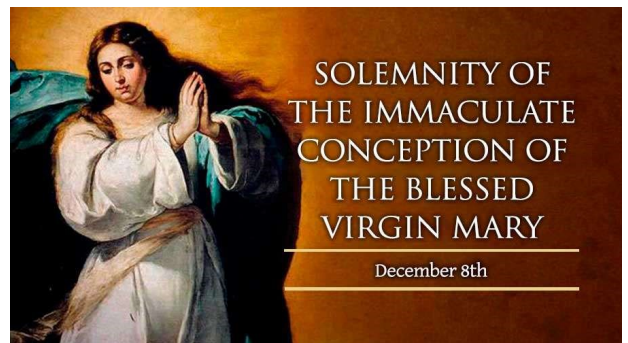
Tuesday 6      Readings: Is 40:1-11. Mt 18:12-14.  
**R:** The Lord our God comes in strength.  
**St Nicholas, bishop.**

Wednesday 7      Is 40:25-31. Mr 11:28-30.  
**R:** O bless the Lord, my soul.  
**St Ambrose, bishop, doctor.**

Thursday 8      Readings: Gen 3:9-15, 20. Eph 1:3-6, 11-12. Lk 1:26-38.  
**R:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds.  
**The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Friday 9      Readings: Is 48:17-19. Mt 11:16-19.  
**R:** Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.  
**St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, hermit.**

Saturday 10      Readings: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11. Mt 17:10-13.  
**R:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.  
**Our Lady of Loreto.**

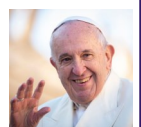


Source: Ordo 2022

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2022**

**VOLUNTEER AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS**

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. Amen.





## THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

### Chapter 4

To apply oneself frequently to prayer.

### PARISH FUNDS

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

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

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It's that time of year again when we reach out to our generous community to help the marginalised in our area to have a happier Christmas. We are looking for donations in the envelopes and also Christmas hamper items, food and toiletries. Please leave hamper donations in the baskets at both entry doors.



### CONGRATULATIONS



We welcome into our Catholic parish community Heidi Tierre Cascun, (daughter and third child of Paul and Jenni Cascun) who was recently baptised in our parish.



**You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.**

**In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.**

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

#### At Home

Palms' [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program (January 7 – 11) will **“focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church”** as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

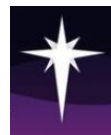
#### Overseas

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the [many requests Palms has from communities](#) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

### COMBINED CHURCHES OF BEROWRA

Present...



**CAROLS UNDER THE STAR**

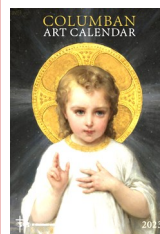
**15th December 2022**

Pre show activities: 5pm  
Carols show begins: 7pm

Join us live at the oval:

Warrina street, Berowra heights

### 2023 COLUMBAN CALENDAR



**NOW AVAILABLE \$10 EACH**

Now available at the Church Sacristy entry. Thank you for your support which has enabled Columban's to provide hope for the poorest of people where Columban's missionaries work.

### In Our Parish

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

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

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



## PARISH FUNDRAISER

### TWO MORE WEEKS!

Raffle tickets are available for fundraising for the parish.

**\$5 per ticket: iPad, blowdryer & hampers prizes**  
**\$50 per ticket: Calf prize**

**Drawn Sunday 18th December 2022.**

To purchase tickets you can use the Tap'N'Go or cash.  
Tickets are available from:  
*Lila, Robin, Rosie, Nerida, Mary A,  
and Paula (parish office).*

**Please help support our beautiful parish.**

#### Prizes include:

- A Calf donated by the Monastery
- Apple IPAD
- Blow-dryer and hair care package
- Gift Hampers

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES



### PARISH:

**Christmas EVE Saturday Vigil**

**Saturday 24th Dec 2022: 7pm**  
**11.30pm (Midnight Mass)**

**Christmas DAY**

**Sunday 25th Dec 2022: 9am & 10.30am (Latin)**

**Feast of Holy Family**

**Friday 30th Dec 2022: 7pm**

**New Year's EVE Vigil**

**Saturday 31st Dec 2022: 7pm**

**New Year's DAY**

**Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God**

**Sunday 1st Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am**  
**4.30pm (Latin Mass)**

**Epiphany Vigil**

**Saturday 7th Jan 2023: 7pm**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

**Sunday 8th Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am**  
**4.30pm (Latin Mass)**

**Feast Baptism of the Lord**

**Monday 9th Jan 2023: 9.30am**

### MONASTERY:

**Daily as usual 7am**



## CATECHIST NEWS

### Final SRE (Scripture) dates:

Middle Dural PS – next Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Welcome to all families joining in the Children's Mass this weekend. In particular we would like to recognise all children in Year 6 as they complete primary school and wish them every blessing as they move on to high school next year.

This weekend we are also recognising Tony Jazprizza, Pauline Honor and Natalie Kazzi for 10 years service as Catechists and to Violet Boumerhe for 5 years service as a Catechist. A big thanks to these Catechists and all Catechists and may God bless you for your work in this ministry!

And I would like to thank Leonie Miller and Colleen Appino, who are retiring this year. Between the two of them, they have over 95 years service as Catechists! Leonie has been involved in many areas of the parish and although she retired from being a full time Catechist a few years ago in our parish, she has been assisting as a Reserve Catechist and Colleen has been a full time Catechist at Glenorie PS for 43 years as well as assisting in the Sacramental Program and Children's Masses. A very big thank you to both these wonderful women!

This week we celebrated the end of our SRE (Scripture) year with a beautiful dinner at Rose's place! Thank you Rose! It is always lovely to be able to end the year with a Mass and gathering. We were also fortunate to have Kristy Komadina and Sharon da Roza from the CCD join us. We had the opportunity to thank Sharon for her many years at the CCD as she retires this month.

Being a Catechist is a very rewarding ministry! As we have a few Catechists retiring this year and some stepping back from full time teaching, if anyone is interested in being a Catechist or helper for next year, please contact me or talk to Fr Shansana or Paula in the parish office.

God bless,

Miriam Brown [srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)

Parish Catechist Coordinator



### CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

**Friday nights:** after 7pm Mass

**Wednesday mornings:** after 9.30am Mass

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

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

*(Last meeting of the year Wednesday 21/12/2022.  
Recommence Wednesday 4/1/2023).*



### ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.



## VOX POPULI - VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

### 2nd Week of ADVENT - FAITH

The first week of Advent is coming to a close and we will soon light our second purple or violet coloured candle which symbolises **Faith**.

It is sometimes called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. This week allows us to reflect on a life lived in the spirit of trust.

Bethlehem is a story about a humble couple on an unwanted journey, at an inconvenient time, to visit a tiny insignificant town.

Augustus Caesar was ruling, and he called for a census to be taken, but God was in charge, and He used Caesar's edict to move Mary and Joseph eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfil His Word.

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary saying she would bear a son who she will name Jesus, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end, Mary said; "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." ([Luke 1:38](#)). Certainly a sign of faith and trust, and it meant that from then on, Mary's life would be a part of the fulfilment of divine prophecy.

A woman of deep faith Mary trusted in God so completely that she cooperated with God's call, allowing Jesus to be born into the world.

The Bethlehem Candle of Faith is well named. In a world of commercialism and "happy holidays", it takes faith to embrace and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

### The Gifts of Christmas - Reflections for Advent

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. Last Sunday, we saw the lighting of the first Advent candle, which symbolises Hope. This candle is also known as the Prophecy candle and represents the anticipation of the coming of Jesus.

How are you preparing during this season of Advent? Our new Diocesan resource is available and is suitable for small groups or individual reflection during Advent.

The resource can be accessed on the [Diocesan webpage](#)

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/evangelisation/advent-2022>



## BECOME A FOSTER CARER



### Can you help a child feel safe and secure?

There are children in our community who have been through experiences few of us could begin to fathom and who, without our help, will go through a childhood without the love and support of a family. CatholicCare believe all children deserve a safe home, and by providing one we can help them build their self-esteem and develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

We are looking for everyday families who might consider taking a child or young person into their home – to love and support them whether for one or two nights, a few weeks, months, or long term.

Can you help?

Please reach out on (02) 4320 7700 or visit [www.fostering.org.au](http://www.fostering.org.au).



## **Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**

**c. 1474-1548**

**Feast Day: December 9**



**Patron Saint of indigenous people**

***Mary said to Juan: “Am I not here, I who am your mother?”***

Good things happen to those who go to daily Mass. A very good thing happened to today’s saint on his long trek to daily Mass, something so extraordinary that it permanently altered a continent. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (the “Talking Eagle”) was born near present-day Mexico City in the pre-Colombian Aztec Empire, though he belonged to the Chichimec, not the Aztec, people. At the age of fifty, Juan received baptism from a Franciscan priest, about five years after those path-breaking missionaries had first walked barefoot from coastal Veracruz into the Aztec heartland. Juan must have quickly fell in love with his newfound faith, because he visited God as one visits a sturdy friend, more than just once a week.

On Saturday, December 9, 1531, Juan was walking to Mass and crossed over a small hill called Tepeyac. A mysterious woman appeared to him speaking Nahuatl, the local language. The woman quickly identified herself as the “Ever-Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the true God” and asked Juan to approach the Bishop to petition that a shrine be built in her honor on that very hill. So the humble Juan went and knocked on the door of one of the most powerful men in the new Spanish dominion. The Bishop was solicitous but cautious and requested a sign to buttress Juan’s credibility and his request. A series of events then transpired which culminated on Tuesday, December 12. On that day, Juan presented the Bishop with flowers, carefully cradled in his poncho, which Mary had directed him to collect. When Juan unfurled his poncho in the Bishop’s presence, everyone saw then what everyone sees now in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City—the young, pregnant Mary of Tepeyac emblazoned, in full color, on Juan’s coarse poncho.

An early document holds that, after 1531, Juan Diego, whose wife had died by then, spent the rest of his days living the life of a hermit near the chapel on Tepeyac housing the miraculous image. Juan likely welcomed the first waves of pilgrims who visited the primitive shrine to pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is difficult to imagine anyone returning to his or her everyday existence after seeing, hearing, and conversing with God, Mary, or a saint. Some experiences are “before” and “after” events, their profundity divides life into halves or portions: a divorce, a dreadful medical diagnosis, a financial collapse, a child’s death, a crippling accident, or, on the positive side and much more rarely, a divine locution, an apparition, or an unmistakable spiritual intervention, all divert the straight line of a life’s graph.


The days between December 9 and the vigil of December 12 are a kind of Mexican Triduum, when that nation celebrates founding events which have nothing to do with legal documents. Nation-building requires more than just a constitution or the winning of a key battle. Building an enduring people requires a shared language, a common history, an undivided religious outlook, and a unity of cultural expression. If there is a source of Mexican unity, it is found in the vision of the humble servant Saint Juan Diego. Millions of pilgrims endlessly process, day after day, year after year, century after century, before the miraculous image in the most visited Marian shrine in the world. These citizens don’t go to Mexico’s national archives to search for words on a faded parchment, but to a shrine to gaze in wonder at a young woman imprinted vividly on rough cactus fibers. The faithful arrive on pilgrimage, often on foot, to bow their heads, to light a candle, and to pray before the permanent miracle that is a simple Indian’s gift to the Church. They come to visit a person, not an idea, because a person can absorb our love and love us back.

***Saint Juan Diego, we ask your humble intercession in heaven to assist all those who doubt the power of God and His saints. May your example of fidelity and service inspire us to holiness as much as your miraculous tilma. Amen.***

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

**CHRISTMAS BLANK ROSTER DISPLAYED ON SACRISTY WINDOW  
PLEASE HELP BY ADDING YOUR NAME**

**NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER**  
10/12/22 to 11/12/22  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Acolyte</b>		Nigel M	
<b>Reader1</b>	Mary C	Bernadette W	Teresa G
<b>Reader2</b>	Sr Carol T	Glenice L	Lorna B
<b>Prayers</b>	Margaret B	Judy H	Matt M
<b>TV</b>		Tyrone E	
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	
<b>Music</b>		Robin B	
<b>Music</b>		Keith W	
<b>Music</b>		Theresa N	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Mary & Tania	
 <b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>NO ALTAR FLOWERS DURING ADVENT</b>		

**Parish Roster**

*Thank You!*

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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

**SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT**

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

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

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

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm**  
*(During the month of January only opened Fridays)*

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

**Parish Administrator: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB**  
**Email: sanshanasamarsinghe@yahoo.com**  
**After hours: 0437 884 233**

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

**Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia**

**Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia**



**MONASTERY: 9653 1159**

**BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:**  
**BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141**  
**Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:**  
**CBA—Catholic Development Fund**

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety  
and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:**  
**Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**