St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord!

PARISH MASS TIMES Weekend:

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

Weekday: Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER ADORATION 9AM TO 10AM

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays Daily 7:00am 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 B

9 & 10 DECEMBER 2023

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

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.**

SELF REFLECTION - REPENT

Sunday's Gospel Mark 1:1-8, John the Baptist appeared asking people to repent and baptising people. He preached forgiveness. This is one of the special gifts of God, and one of the big celebrations of Advent. We are a forgiven people, and we welcome the forgiveness of God in our repentance. This means we are firstly grateful for forgiveness - that we do not have to carry forever the burden of our sin, meanness, faults and failings. God covers them over in mercy. *(source: sacredspace.com)*

- Am I a forgiving person?
- Do I repent for my sins and try to do better in life?
- Am I a caring and compassionate person with love and joy making steps to forgive others?
- Am I prepared for Advent by starting over?

Show me, Lord, what there is about my life that takes from the value of my words and makes me less convincing.

Giving Helping Advent Cetting Waiting Visitation Hope Preparing Working Joy Expectation

Dear Lord,

PRAYER:

Annunciation

Show me Lord how to be a more caring and compassionate person. Help me prepare for Advent by being full of love and joy. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (JB)* A reading from the prophet Isaiah *Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your

God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 (JB)

A reading from the second letter of St Peter We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day'

can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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: Mark 1:1-8 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark *Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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





The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness

Instead he is

come to REPENTANCE

with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to YEAR B

Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2023

GOSPEL REFLECTION Second Sunday of Advent, December 10 Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Psalm 85:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Mark 1:1)

Beginnings are important, and the beginning of Mark's gospel is no exception. His very first sentence reads like a summary of the entire book: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). So where does Mark start the story? He takes us to the Judean desert, where John the Baptist is preparing the way for the Christ, the Messiah.

Contrary to expectations that the Messiah would bring Israel military liberation, John proclaims that Jesus will baptize his people in the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:8). He will open the way for God himself to dwell in them!

That's why John offered baptism for the forgiveness of sins. He knew that Jesus had come to do something new, something astonishing. Repentance was the key that would help the Jews—and us—to receive this surprising good news.

In order to be ready, we need to empty ourselves of our old ways of thinking. That's where repentance comes in. It clears out the sin that clouds our vision of God. It removes our shame and guilt and delivers us from whatever blocks God's life from taking root in us. It makes us ready to receive God's forgiveness and helps us to become more aware of his abiding presence within us.

Are there ways that you need a change of attitude or a new hope this Advent? As you prepare the way for Jesus during this holy season, go back to "the beginning" and listen to John the Baptist's message. Repentance is good news because it opens your heart to Jesus. So take advantage of opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this season. Let God expand your capacity to receive him at Christmas. As Mark shows us in his gospel, that's where it all begins.

"Jesus help me to open my heart to you as I await your coming!"

Source: Word Among Us

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER

- Monday 11 Readings: Is 35:1-10. Lk 5:17-26. R: Our God will come to save us! St Damascus I, pope
- Tuesday 12Readings: Is 40:1-11. Mt 18:12-14.R: The Lord our God comes in strength.
- Wednesday 13 Readings: Is 40:25-31. Mt 11:28-30. R: O bless the Lord, my soul. *St Lucy, virgin, martyr*
- Thursday 14Readings: Is 41:13-20.R: The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.St John of the Cross, priest, doctor
- Friday 15 Readings: Is 48:17-19. Mt 11:16-19. R: Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.
- Saturday 16 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.

We must dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures however deep we dig, we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket, new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides.



Source: Ordo 2023

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



 PARISH FUNDS Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details: BSB: 062.784 Acct: 100002141 Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: Corpersention on 2h and 37 da di do December bip the growing number of people seeking ansistance with everyday living in this difficut conference. Prayers for the repose of Emanuele Monardo. Emanuele's 2nd Anniversary of his death occurs on Saturday 16th December. Ame Prayers for the repose of Emanuele Monardo. Eternal Rest grant to him O Lord. And let the Peoptual Bight shine upon him, May he Rest in Peace. Ame St BENEDICT'S FETE 2024 The Parish fete will be held on Sunday 7th April, 204 variers and thoughts are with reresat Monardo and familites. Fin		ST BENEDICT one's adversary before sundown.
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For more information please contact Fr Shansana	putting aside donations for the fete. Only good quality	turning stress into opportunities for love and connection. May the true spirit of the Advent season fill us with
	For more information please contact Fr Shansana.	Amen.

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 Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Jenny Taylor and baby Hugo.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Luigi Bisoglio, Peter Sullivan & Mary Hackett. *May they rest in Peace.*



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

ROBIN BARBARA, JOSEPINE LETTERI, ROSIE SAKKAL & MATT WALL

Thank you!

Thank you for helping clear out the storage rooms ready for the fete! We really appreciate you! 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.



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!

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

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Final SRE dates are –

Galston – Combined Assembly Wed 13th December

Wishing all Catechists and families a very blessed and safe Christmas!

Due to retirements we are in need of a Catechist for Middle Dural PS next year – classes are held on Wednesdays 9am – 9:40am. Student class number would be 6 or less, if you are available and interested, please let me know!

If you are interested in knowing more about being a Catechist (Scripture teacher) or helper please feel free to talk to me, or Paula in the parish office or our priests, or any parish Catechist.

God bless,

Miriam Brown (email: <u>srearcadia@gmail.com</u>) Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

Here is a photo of our catechists receiving awards as well as year 6 students!



JOB VACANCIES

Catholic Schools Broken Bay has several school and office-based support roles for consideration.

Click through to apply.

Please see the positions below:

CSSB Sport Coordinator, Catholic Schools Broken Bay, Pennant Hills

<u>Classroom Teachers Permanent & Temporary, St</u> <u>Philip Neri Catholic Schools</u> <u>Join us and teach here</u>

csbb.catholic.edu.au/careers/work-with-us/

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The parish is looking to make the parish bulletin available electronically (paper copy will still be available). If you are interested in receiving the parish bulletin via email, please provide your email address to the parish office via:

arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.



For more details call Angela Egiziano Ph: 9652 1358

SAINT OF THE WEEK



SAINT LUCY OF SYRACUSE, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

Feast Day: December 13

C. 283- c.304

Patron Saint of blind people, martyrs, peasants, penitent prostitutes, poor people, sick children, authors, cutlers, farmers, glassmakers, glaziers, gondoliers, laborers, lawyers, maidservants, notaries, eye doctors, porters, printers, saddlers, sailors, salesmen, seamstresses, tailors, upholsterers, weavers, and writers.

December 13: At Syracuse, in Sicily, the birthday of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, in the persecution of Diocletian. By the order of the ex-consul Paschasius, she was delivered to profligates, that her chastity might be insulted; but when they attempted to lead her away, they could not succeed, either with ropes or with many yoke of oxen. Then pouring hot pitch, rosin, and boiling oil over her body without injuring her, they finally plunged a sword into her throat, and thus completed her martyrdom. ~Official Roman Martyrology

It takes great faith to exclaim that torture and death are glorious when they result from your love of Christ, yet this type of faith has been present in countless martyrs throughout the history of the Church. The earliest centuries of the Church especially produced holy martyrs who endured the attempted extinction of Christianity by the Roman emperors who clung to their pagan gods. Such was the case with today's saint, Saint Lucy of Syracuse, who died during the Great Persecution of Roman Emperor Diocletian. Though historical details are hard to confirm, as early as the fifth century, beautiful legends about Saint Lucy had been handed down. It is those legends that follow.

Lucy was born in Syracuse, Sicily, around the year 283 to Christian parents. When she was five, her father died, leaving her mother, Eutychia, to raise her alone. Eutychia suffered from hemorrhages and feared for Lucy's future, so she arranged a promise of marriage for her daughter to a nobleman from a pagan family.

A half century earlier, the holy virgin Saint Agatha had been martyred forty miles north of Syracuse in the city of Cantania. Saint Agatha was revered as the glory of Cantania. Her tomb became a popular place of pilgrimage and site of many miracles. Hopeful of a cure of her mother's hemorrhages, Lucy convinced her mother to make a pilgrimage to Saint Agatha's tomb. Eutychia agreed. While at the tomb, the two fervently prayed for a long time. As they did, Lucy had a dream-like vision in which Saint Agatha appeared to her, informing her that her mother would be cured because of Lucy's faith, and that Lucy would become the glory of Syracuse, just as Agatha was the glory of Cantania. When Lucy awoke from her vision, she cried out, "O, mother, mother, you are healed!"

From that moment on, Lucy continued to sense Saint Agatha speaking to her about her calling to be a Bride of Christ and to die as a martyr. She informed her mother of her desire to remain a virgin and begged her to offer their wealth to the poor. Her mother hesitated, suggesting it would be better for Lucy to do so once Eutychia had died, but Lucy urged her to do so right away because it would be a source of much greater merit. Lucy's faith won the day. She continued to postpone her marriage and spent the next few years joyfully distributing her money and jewels to the poor.

In the year 303, Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict outlawing Christianity in the Roman Empire. Christian Churches and sacred texts, such as Scripture and liturgical books, were to be destroyed. Christians were forbidden to gather for worship. Civil servants and nobility were stripped of their ranks and belongings. Christians who were discovered were forced to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods and the emperor; those who refused were tortured and even killed.

Though this was clearly a grave evil to befall those who professed their faith in Christ, it also resulted in a strengthening of faith for many. Secret worship regularly took place at the risk of the worshippers' lives. Honored martyrs inspired the faithful to imitate the martyrs' steadfast faith.

Around the year 304, when Lucy was around the age of twenty-one, her suitor became aware of the large sums of money that she had distributed to the poor. He was also aware that Lucy had done so on account of her Christian faith and realized that she was not going to become his bride. Enraged, he reported Lucy to Paschasius, the Governor of Syracuse, denouncing her as a Christian.

When Governor Paschasius of Syracuse learned of Lucy's Christian faith and her charity to the poor, he had her arrested and interrogated. He attempted to force her to apostatize by offering sacrifice to the Roman gods, but she refused. A later Roman martyrology put these words into Lucy's mouth:

I know but one sacrifice pure and full of honor, which I can offer. This is to visit orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. For three years, I have daily offered this sacrifice to my God and Father; and now I long for the happiness of offering myself to Him as a living victim. His holy will be done!

(continue over...)

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Lucy then accused the governor of demon worship and prophesied his condemnation before God. The governor was outraged and ordered her to be defiled in a brothel. When the guards tried to move her, she was heavier than a boulder. They even tried to move her with a rope tied to the yoke of oxen, but she didn't budge. The guards then surrounded her with wood to burn her, but the flames did not harm her. Finally, the governor ordered a soldier to thrust his sword into her neck, and God permitted her martyrdom to be completed. One martyrology attributes these prophetic words to her as she was dying:

I announce to you a great joy. Diocletian descends from his throne, Maximian dies, the Church breathes again: peace extends its protecting wing over the martyred Saints. O Syracuse, O place of my birth, as Catania finds its safety and glory beneath the guardianship of my sister Agatha, so shalt thou be shielded by me, if thou art willing to embrace that Faith, for the truth of which I shed my blood.

Saint Lucy is often depicted in sacred art holding her eyes because much later legends state that either the guards gouged her eyes out as torture, or that she gouged her own eyes out so that her suitor would no longer be tempted by their beauty.

Veneration to Saint Lucy quickly spread, and her prophetic dream-vision came true—she became the glory and protector of Syracuse and the source of many miracles. By the end of the sixth century, she was so revered throughout the Roman Empire that Pope Saint Gregory the Great inserted her name into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I)—"...graciously grant some share and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs: with John the Baptist, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia and all your Saints…"

The fact that a young virgin martyr would become so revered and honored for many centuries after her birth is a testimony to the power of God. Saint Lucy not only imitated her Lord, but in her humility, she reflected the glory of the Mother of God who, in her song of praise, proclaimed, "For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name..." (Luke 1:49–49).

Saint Lucy, you grew deep in faith at a young age, committed yourself to your God, and never turned back. Please pray for me, that I will have your strength, wisdom, and charity so that I will unwaveringly fulfill the will of God, choosing Him above all else. Saint Lucy, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

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) 9481 2600 or visit <u>www.fostering.org.au</u>.

CatholicCare is a registered provider of Support Coordination for the NDIS



When you have a NDIS plan you can choose the providers that you want. However, it can be a bit tricky getting things organised. That's where Support Coordination can help to connect you to mainstream and specialist services that are funded under your plan. Support Coordination is allocated as part of a funded plan.

We can support you to get the most out of your plan and help you understand how your plan works.

For more information call us today on (02) 9488 2500 or visit <u>www.catholiccaredbb.org.au</u>.

DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, Puzzles (with all pieces) etc. as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc. Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

Sr Mary boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse she reports it.

Cathy Holling 0403 062 255

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

16/12/2023 to 17/12/2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

DRAFT ROSTER & CHRISTMAS ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE SACRISTY WINDOW

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Kathryn S	Judy H	Michael E
Reader2	Miriam B	Kath M	Lorna B
Prayers	Margaret B	Peter G	Fogarty family
τν		Jules O	Mary A
Music		Melanie H	Gregorian Choir
Music		Marisa Q	Gregorian Choir
Music		Helen F	
Music		Theresa N	
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
FLOWERS	Rose G		



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: Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm Like us on MONASTERY: 9653 1159 Parish Office: 02 9653 2312 Facebook Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: **CBA**—Catholic Development Fund After hours: 0437 884 233 Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 For all parish Occupational Health & Safety **Postal address:** 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159 and Safeguarding Children matters Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.