

# St Benedict's Parish

## Arcadia



**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**YEAR C**  
**26 & 27 APRIL 2025**

# Blessed

are those who  
have not seen  
and yet have  
believed

John 20:29  
Knowing-Jesus.com

### PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday 10:30am

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration

7:00pm Mass & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 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**

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

**BAPTISMS**  
**RECONCILIATION**  
**FOR THE SICK**  
**MARRIAGES**  
**FUNERALS**



### ENTRANCE PROCESSION

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

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

God of everlasting mercy,  
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### SELF REFLECTION: BELIEVE

This Sunday's Gospel, John 20:19-31, reminds me that Jesus meets me in my fear and doubt with peace and patience. Like Thomas, I may question, but Jesus still invites me to believe. Faith isn't about having all the answers—it's about trusting Him, even when I can't see everything clearly.

- *What am I afraid of right now?*
- *Where do I need Jesus' peace in my life?*
- *Have I ever felt like Thomas—unsure or needing proof?*
- *How does Jesus help me believe in Him?*
- *What does it mean to call Jesus "my Lord and my God"?*



**First Reading: Acts 5:12-16 (JB)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

**Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19 (JB)**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL John 20:19-31 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book.

These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

**Sunday, April 27**

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

**Acts 5:12-16**

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

**Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19**

**John 20:19-31**

*Do not be afraid. (Revelation 1:17)*

Anyone would have been afraid! Most Jews believed that if they saw the glory of God face-to-face, they would die. This explains why St. John, who wrote the Book of Revelation, collapsed to the ground when he was brought into the presence of the "one like a son of man" (Revelation 1:13). Even John, who had walked with Jesus, witnessed his Transfiguration, lain his head on Jesus' breast, and watched as he ascended to heaven, was overwhelmed!

Jesus' response to John is perfect for today's celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday: "Do not be afraid" (Revelation 1:17). He didn't tell John that there was *no reason* to fear; he touched him, offered a word of encouragement, and raised him up. That expression of love and intimacy overcame John's fears and enabled him to stand before his glorious Lord. That's what mercy is all about! It's the perfect love of God, which "drives out fear" (1 John 4:18).

This is the same mercy Jesus showed to Thomas in today's Gospel. Thomas doubted the resurrection because he hadn't seen it with his own eyes. But Jesus came and invited Thomas to touch his wounds and "believe" (John 20:27). Like John, Thomas experienced a mercy that saw his unworthiness and still drew him close.

We can experience that mercy, too. Jesus knows that in the light of his glory, we are all frail and flawed. He knows that in the light of his truth, we often doubt and distrust. He knows we are not worthy to come to him on our own merits. Yet in his power and holiness and glory, he is patient with us. As he did for Thomas, he sees our weakness and shores up our faith. As he did for John, he calms our fearful hearts and assures us of his love.

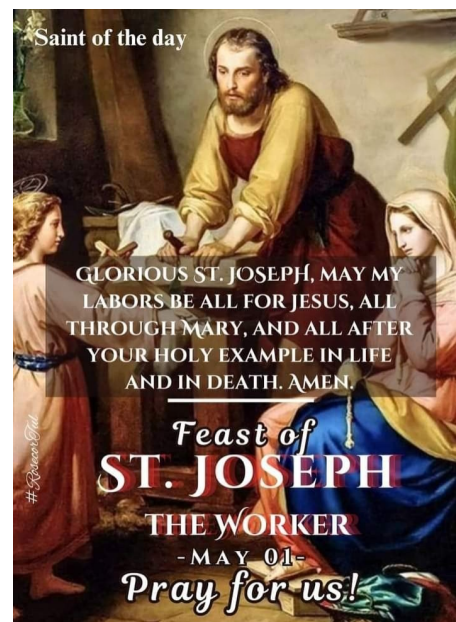
So don't be afraid to come to Jesus today. Don't be afraid to let him see you as you truly are. Come and hear him say, "Do not be afraid."

***"Jesus, thank you for the depths of your mercy!"***

Source: [www.word-sunday.com](http://www.word-sunday.com)

## **WEEK DAY LITURGICAL READINGS**

Monday April 28:	Acts 4:3-31. Jn 3:1-8. <b>R.</b> Happy are all who put their trust in the Lord. <b>St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr.</b>
Tuesday April 29:	Acts 4:32-37. Jn 3:7-15. <b>R.</b> The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty. <b>St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor.</b>
Wednesday April 30:	Acts 5:17-26. Jn 3:16-21. <b>R.</b> The Lord hears the cry of the poor. <b>St Pius V, pope.</b>
Thursday May 1:	Acts: 5:27-33. Jn 3:31-36. <b>R.</b> The Lord hears the cry of the poor. <b>St Joseph the Worker.</b>
Friday May 2:	Acts: 5:34-42. Jn 6:1-15. <b>R.</b> One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord. <b>St Athanasius, bishop, doctor.</b>
Saturday May 3:	1 Cor 15:1-8. Jn 14:6-14.. <b>R.</b> Their message goes out through all the earth. <b>Sts Philip and James, apostles.</b>




Source: Ordo 2025



## PARISH NOTICE

Please note the new email address  
for the parish office:

[arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)



**POPE FRANCIS**  
— 1936 – 2025 —  
**REQUIESCAT IN PACE**

**SOLEMN MASS FOR THE REPOSE OF THE  
SOUL OF POPE FRANCIS**

7.00pm Monday 28 April 2025  
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara  
**RSVP:** 24 April 2025 at [events@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:events@bbcatholic.org.au)

*Loving God,*

*We thank You for the life and service of Pope Francis.  
In his kindness and humility, he led Your Church with  
wisdom and compassion. Welcome him into the joy of  
Your eternal kingdom. Amen.*

## IN LOVING MEMORY – ONE YEAR ON



**HELEN FACIONE**



Our prayers and thoughts are with Helen's family and all her friends as we mark the one-year anniversary of her passing (29th April).

Helen remains deeply missed in our parish community. Her kindness and presence are remembered with love. May she continue to rest in God's eternal peace.

**Memorial Mass will be held on  
Sunday 9am April 27th at the Parish Church.**

## REST IN PEACE - POPE FRANCIS: 1936-2025



### In Memoriam – Pope Francis

With deep sorrow, we share the news of the passing of Pope Francis, the beloved shepherd of our Church.

We give thanks for his humble leadership, his compassion for the poor, and his tireless call for peace and mercy in the world.

Let us join together in prayer for the repose of his soul, and for the Church as we mourn his loss.

**Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.**

### Message from Father Michael Kelly:

During my twelve years in Rome as Abbot General, I had the privilege of meeting Pope Francis five times. Two were with the Union of Superiors General, when the Pope generously gave a whole morning each time. Two were with the leaders of the Benedictine Confederation and one at his residence of Santa Marta in the Vatican when the secretary and I attended Mass in the chapel there. There was always a welcoming smile, despite the number of people he met.



## 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 Bruce Shankland, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, Father Alberic.**

**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died:**

**POPE FRANCIS, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry, Colleen Bennett & Helen Facione.**

**~ May they rest in Peace.**



## DRAFT ROSTER

The next draft roster is on the sacristy window. Please check and update if necessary.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CATHECHUMENS



### Congratulations to Our New Catholics!

We joyfully congratulate the **catechumens** who were **Baptised, Confirmed, and received their First Holy Communion** at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Welcome to the fullness of life in Christ and in His Church!

Let us continue to **pray for them** as they grow in faith and love as part of our parish family.

## ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

**YOUTH GROUP IS NOW FINISHED FOR THE TERM.**

- **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!

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

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



For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

## CCC PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meeting held every  
**Wednesday morning:**  
after 9.30am Mass.

*Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!*

For more details call  
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Wishing all families and Catechists a blessed and holy Easter and holiday break. Term 2 will resume this week of the 28th April, with SRE (Scripture) classes resuming in the first week of term, EXCEPT for Arcadia PS where SRE will resume on Wednesday 7th May.

Please continue to keep our Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers over the school holidays.

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](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



## PIETY SHOP NEWS



**MOTHER'S DAY STOCK NOW IN!**



The **Parish Piety Shop** is now stocked with a variety of thoughtful **Mother's Day gifts**—perfect for showing appreciation to the special women in your life, for mum, grandma, sister etc.

We invite you to stop by after Mass and take a look. Your support also helps our parish community!

## ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

All ladies welcome to join us on Wednesday 7th May, 7.30-9.30pm in the parish meeting room for our next Maker's Table workshop.

For the month of Our Lady (May) we will be making beautiful Rosary Beads.

\$10 per participant.



[themakerstablesydney@gmail.com](mailto:themakerstablesydney@gmail.com)

Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425-834-017

## 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!



## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

### *Saints Philip and James, Apostles*

**Feast Day: May 3**

Saint Philip: c. 4–c. 80

Patron Saint of hatmakers and pastry chefs

Saint James: First century B.C.–c. 62

Patron Saint of pharmacists and the dying

Since the sixth century, the Apostles Philip and James' relics have rested in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Rome. The two Apostles are honored with one feast.

Philip was one of the Twelve, most likely a follower of John the Baptist who knew that John pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. He might have been Simon Peter and Andrew's brother, making him a fisherman by trade. The day after Jesus invited the brothers to follow Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Follow me" ([John 1:43](#)). Philip obeyed and told his friend Nathanael that they had found the Messiah. Nathanael was reluctant, saying, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see" ([John 1:46](#)). When Nathanael came and saw, he professed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah and followed our Lord from that time forward, witnessing Jesus' first miracle at Cana. In John's Gospel, Philip tells Jesus that two hundred days' wages would not buy enough to feed the crowd of 5,000 ([John 6:6](#)). Philip also comes up in connection with Greek-speaking Gentiles who want to see Jesus (see [John 12:21](#)), indicating that he could speak Greek and was known to the Greek community. At the Last Supper, as Jesus spoke about the Father, Philip said, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us", to which Jesus gently responded, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" ([John 14:8–14](#)).

Traditions say that after Pentecost, Philip preached in Greece, Phrygia, and Syria, being crucified upside-down or beheaded at an old age in Hierapolis, Phrygia, modern-day southwest Turkey.

James was also one of the Twelve, sharing a name with James, the son of Zebedee. Today's saint is James the Less or James, the son of Alphaeus. His mother was possibly Mary of Clopas, the Blessed Virgin's sister, making James a first cousin to Jesus. In Scripture, he is referred to as Jesus' "brother" because it was common at that time to refer to cousins and other relatives as brothers and sisters. In Mark's Gospel, Levi (better known as Matthew) is also referred to as the son of Alphaeus ([Mark 2:14](#)) which could make James and Matthew brothers.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul relates that the Lord appeared to James after His Resurrection ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#)). After Pentecost, James became the first bishop of the Church in Jerusalem. The Acts of the Apostles relates that James oversaw the First Council of Jerusalem and declared the final judgment on behalf of Peter (see Acts 15). Eusebius, a fourth-century bishop, wrote about James' martyrdom, "...he was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple, and was beaten to death with a club." Traditionally, James the Less is believed to have been the author of the New Testament letter of James that gives encouragement in trials and persecutions, exhorts, warns, and ends by speaking of the power of prayer.

*Saints Philip and James, you were blessed to be Jesus' companions, listening to Him preach, witnessing His miracles, and receiving from Him a commission to continue His work. Please pray that I will come to know our Lord and Savior through prayer and the Holy Scriptures, so that I will be prepared for the mission that God has for me. Saints Philip and James, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: mycatholic.life

## THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped in so many ways during Easter Week at our parish. To those who contributed to:

- **General preparations and organisation**
- **Rosters**
- **Church flowers and decorations**
- **Music ministry**
- **Readers and liturgical roles**
- **Stations of the Cross**
- **Supper and morning tea**
- **Preparation and placement of palms**
- **Counters**



And to everyone who gave their time, talents, and energy in any way— we are truly grateful. A special thank you to all our Priests who helped us celebrate. Your generosity and dedication helped create a beautiful and meaningful celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. May God bless each of you abundantly!



## INVITATION

To

MIDDAY PRAYER / LUNCH

For

**Fr. Michael Kelly OSB**

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Profession

**Fr. Bernard McGrath OSB**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

**Fr. Shansana Samarasinghe OSB**

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Profession

On

**SATURDAY 3 May 2025 from 12.00pm**

**Lunch at 1.00pm**

At

St Benedict's Monastery

121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

*Please note, in lieu of gifts a donation can be made to BenedictUs Australia, the support group for Benedictine projects especially in Sri Lanka & Congo*

### RSVP

By: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025

To: [admin@benedictus.org.au](mailto:admin@benedictus.org.au)

121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 — AUSTRALIA  
Tel: +61 2 9653 1159 • Fax: +61 2 9653 1883 • Email: [info@benedictus.org.au](mailto:info@benedictus.org.au)  
Website: [www.benedictus.org.au](http://www.benedictus.org.au)

## GOLDEN JUBILEE ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

**FATHER BERNARD McGRATH**



**10th May 1975**

**Celebrating 50 years of Priesthood**

Congratulations and best wishes to  
**Fr Bernard McGrath** on the  
**Golden Jubilee** of your ordination.

We give thanks to God for your 50 years  
of faithful service, spiritual guidance, and  
devoted ministry.

May the Lord continue to bless you with  
joy, good health, and peace in the years  
to come.

**Ad multos annos!**

## ANZAC DAY

### A Time of Remembrance

Dear Parishioners,



On this ANZAC Day, we come together in solemn remembrance of all who served and sacrificed in times of war, conflict, and peacekeeping.

We honour their courage and dedication, and we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because of their service.

**“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old...”**

**Lest we forget.**

### A Prayer for ANZAC Day

Loving God,

*We remember with gratitude the men and women who gave their lives in service for our country.  
Grant peace to their souls and comfort to those who mourn them.  
Help us to honour their legacy by working for justice, peace, and unity in our world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# Parish Roster

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

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**3/5/25 to 4/5/25  
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C**

	<b>SATURDAY 7.00pm</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9.00am</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Paul C	Paul E
<b>Reader1</b>	Natasha S	Matt W	CHILDREN
<b>Reader2</b>	Maria G	Ann L	CHILDREN
<b>Prayers</b>	Mary C	Mary Cam	CHILDREN
<b>TV</b>		Mary A	Trey O'C
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Karina s
<b>Music</b>		Marisa Q	Noelle T
<b>Music</b>		Keith W	John T
<b>Music</b>		Teresa G	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		<b>Mandah V</b>	<b>Robin B</b>
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>Hannah A</b>		



**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](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com)  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233

**Facebook:** [stbenedictsarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsarcadia)



## MONASTERY CHAPEL

### Liturgy of the Hours

*"Seven times a day I will praise you"*

Psalm 119:164

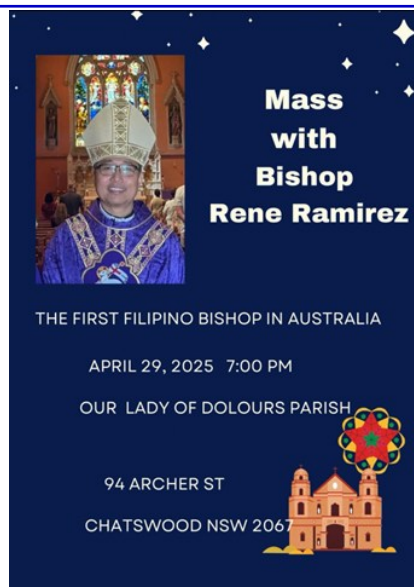
The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

**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.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Parents, please note the First Holy Communion sessions will commence for the Wednesday group May 7th and for the Friday group May 9th.



## DID YOU KNOW...

It took 34 trillion watts of energy to create the image on the Shroud of Turin in a fraction of a second. This is more than any known source of UV radiation known today.



**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**