

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A JULY 25 & 26 2026



Gospel of Matthew 13:44-52

The Kingdom of Heaven:

Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price.

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

Saturdays

9:00am to 10:00am
Adoration & Confession

MONASTERY CHAPEL MASS TIMES

Sundays 7:00am
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

**Baptisms
Reconciliation
For the Sick
Marriages
Funerals**

Parish Priest:
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233
Parish Office 9653 2312



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is
holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.

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: PRICELESS PEARL

This Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is the greatest treasure we can ever find. When we truly know and love God, everything else takes its proper place. Like the people in the parables, we are invited to choose Christ above all else and to joyfully live as His disciples each day.

I Reflect...

1. What do I treasure most in my life?
2. Is God at the centre of my daily choices?
3. What can I let go of to follow Jesus more closely?
4. How can I share God's love with others this week?
5. Am I grateful for the gift of my faith?

Finding True Treasure

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to treasure Your Kingdom above all else. Fill my heart with Your love and guide me to follow You with joy each day. Amen.

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 (JB)

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading Romans 8:28-30 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL**Matthew 13:44-52 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

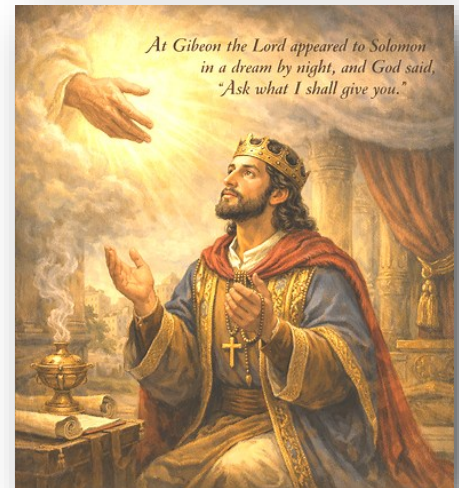
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 / Romans 8:28-30 / Matthew 13:44-52

PATIENCE, MERCY AND WISDOM OF GOD.

Today's readings invite us to consider what we value most in life. In the first reading, Solomon asks God **not for wealth or power, but for wisdom** to lead His people well. Because he seeks what is good and pleasing to God, he receives far more than he could have imagined. St Paul reminds us that God is always at work for the good of those who love Him, even when life is difficult or uncertain.

In the Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price. Those who discover this treasure willingly give up everything because they recognise its incomparable value. Jesus challenges us to ask ourselves whether our relationship with God is the greatest treasure in our own lives. When we place Christ first, everything else begins to find its proper place.

Like Solomon, may we pray each day for wisdom to recognise God's presence and to choose His Kingdom above all else.

Key Thought

God's Kingdom is the greatest treasure we can ever choose.

Take-Home Challenge

This week, choose one way to put God first—through prayer, an act of kindness, or making time for Sunday Mass—and trust that His ways are worth more than anything the world can offer.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the priceless gift of Your Kingdom. Grant us the wisdom to seek You above all else and to recognise that nothing compares with Your love. Help us to trust that You are always working for our good, especially in times of difficulty. Strengthen our faith, guide our choices, and give us generous hearts that place You at the centre of our lives. May we faithfully live the Gospel each day and one day share in the fullness of Your heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

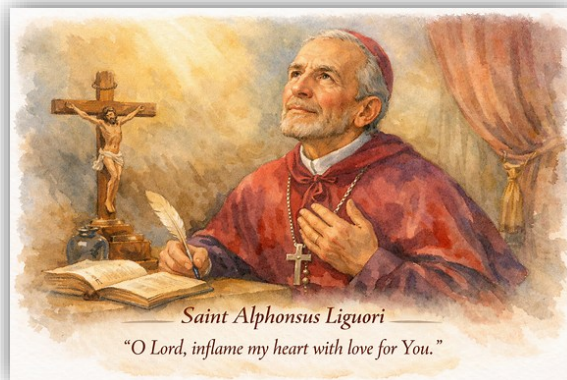
LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

JULY

- Monday 27 Readings: Jer 13:1-11. Mt 13:31-35.
R: You have forgotten God who gave you birth.
- Tuesday 28 Readings: Jer 14:17-22. Mt 13:36-43.
R: For the glory of your name, O Lord, deliver us.
- Wednesday 29 Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-16. Jn 11:19-27.
R: I will bless the Lord at all times.
Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
- Thursday 30 Readings: Jer 18:1-6. Mt 13:47-53.
R: Blest are they whose help is the God of Jacob.
St Peter Chrysologus, bishop, doctor.
- Friday 31 Readings: Jer 26:1-9. Mt 13:54-58.
R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.
St Charbel Ignatius Loyola, priest.

AUGUST

- Saturday 1 Readings: Jer 26:11-16,24. Mt 14:1-12.
R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.
St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor.



Source: Ordo 2026

POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2026

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages,
recognising it as a gift from God.



PARISH NOTICE

- We need volunteers for morning tea after the 9am Mass.
- We also need helpers to do flowers once every 6 to 8 weeks.
- We need adult volunteers to help with Kids Youth Group on Fridays.

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:



SR FAY HANCOCK SGS



12th March, 1941 - 22nd July, 2026

FUNERAL:
St Scholastica Glebe
Friday 31st July 10.30am

After a struggle with failing health and hospitalisation in the SAN, Sr Fay Hancock was born into eternal life on Wednesday, 22nd July.

We are all deeply grateful for the dedicated life of Sr Fay amongst us in Arcadia.

Sr Fay first served the guests in the former monastery guest house and also enriched the lives of Br Hugo and Fr Gabriel in their declining years. With her Good Samaritan Sisters, Fay reached out to many in the parish with love and energy. Moving into Rowland Village, Fay served for 10 years in Pastoral Care of the residents in Mark Donaldson VC House taking Communion to the Catholic residents and bringing the love of Christ to all whom she encountered in the Nursing Home and the Village at large. With her brother, Br Peter Hancock, Fay was part of the community at Saturday evening Eucharist until that was no longer possible as she herself became housebound and others came to her.

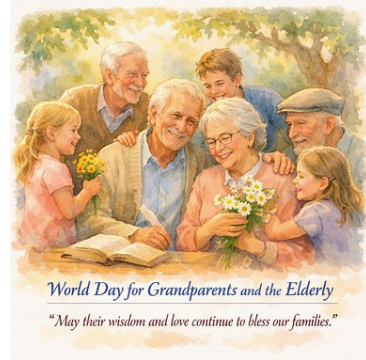
We thank you, Fay for all you have been for us in our parish especially for always holding us in your heart before our God.

BILL PIERCE'S FUNERAL

FUNERAL WILL BE HELD AT THE MONASTERY
MONDAY 27TH JULY AT 10am

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Loving God,
we thank You for the gift of our grandparents and the elderly. Bless them with good health, peace, and joy. Comfort those who are lonely or unwell, and surround them with Your love and the care of their families and friends. May their wisdom, faith, and example continue to inspire future generations. Through the intercession of Saints Joachim and Anne, keep them close to Your heart and fill them with Your grace. **Amen.**



CHILDREN'S MASS

Next children's mass is on
next Sunday August 2nd 10.30am
followed by morning tea and sweets!

MASS OF THANKSGIVING CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Tereza Muscat

Born:
11 July 1931

Mallieha
Malta

Died:
19 July 2026

Richmond
Australia



Aged 95 years
10am Tuesday 28th July 2026
St Monica's Catholic Church, Richmond

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:

Joe Gallo, Miriam Brown, Pauline Honor, Kath Moran,
Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

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

Sr Fay Hancock, Tereza Muscat, Bill Pierce, Francesco Merlino, Peter Chedid, Antonio Romeo,
Nanna Trani, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace, Maria Pappallardo.
~ May they rest in Eternal



CATECHIST NEWS

A heartfelt thank you to all our catechists for your dedication and faithful service throughout Semester 1. Your commitment to sharing the catholic faith with our students is deeply appreciated.

Term 3 will commence on:

- **All Schools except Middle Dural** - Wednesday, 22 July and Friday, 24 July.
- **Middle Dural** will commence Term 3 in Week 2, on Wednesday, 29 July.

Glenorie Catechists: Please note that there will be no SRE classes on Wednesday, 5 August, due to Grandparents' Day at the school. We are always in need of casual fill-in teachers so please contact me or the Parish office for more information if you are interested!

God bless,
Martina Jutrisa
srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist
Co-Ordinator
0413 403 767
Parish Office: 9653 2312



Create.Share.Encounter

A Creative Women's Ministry

Whether you're an experienced crocheter or an absolute beginner (or somewhere in between), we'd love you to join us for our Granny Squares Workshop! We will be learning to crochet a basic 'granny square' for the beginners and a patterned square for the more experienced. If you'd like to leave any squares with us, we will stitch them together to make a blanket or two to donate to the needy. Alternatively, you can continue your crocheting at home and make your own blanket! All materials will be provided for you on the night so please come along for a lovely evening of crafting, friendship and a glass of wine!

Wednesday, 5th August, 2026 7.30 - 9.30pm

\$15 per participant

(which covers all materials, refreshments and a donation for room hire)

St Benedict's Parish meeting room, Arcadia

RSVP by 2/8/26

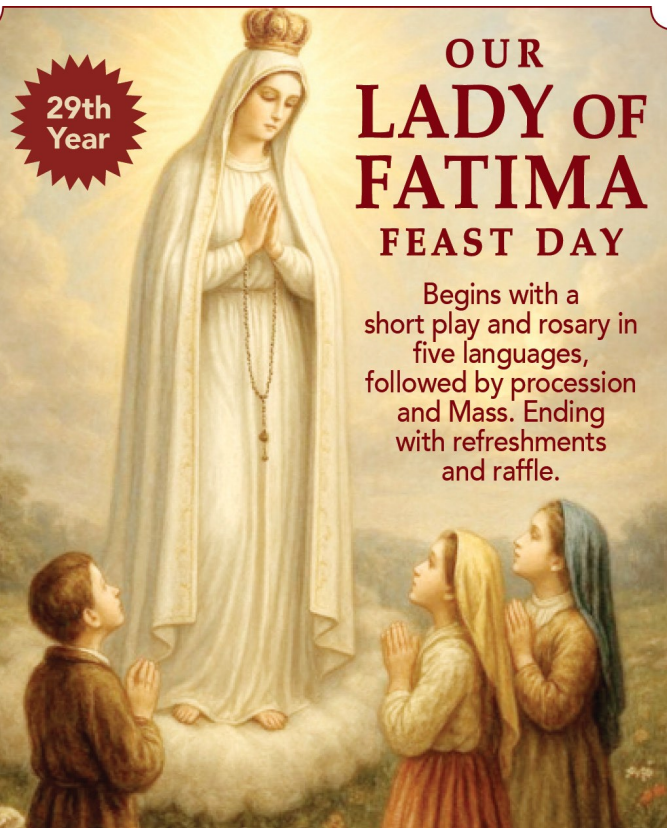
www.facebook.com/makerstable/

www.themakersgarden.com.au

Martine Musumeci 0458-533-250

Nerida Woodbury 0425-834-017

themakerstablestsydney@gmail.com



29th
Year

OUR LADY OF FATIMA FEAST DAY

Begins with a short play and rosary in five languages, followed by procession and Mass. Ending with refreshments and raffle.

Here at St Benedict's Sun 11 Oct 2026 12:30pm

We are inviting young children to take part in the Fatima Play on the Feast Day. Please phone 0438 521 421 for further details.

ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8-12 years
Our Kids Youth Group is back on **Fridays**
DURING SCHOOL TERM
4.00pm to 5.30pm

ON HOLIDAYS
Return on Friday 31st of July



We are in need of adult volunteers to help out.
Please let the parish office know if you are free to help or call Jules on 0415 448 797.

HEALING MASS

Healing Mass is held on the first Thursday of each month at 9.30am

NEXT HEALING MASS:
Thursday 6th August 2026

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.

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!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINTS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS

FEAST DAY July 29

FIRST CENTURY

Martha—Patron Saint of cooks, butlers, dieticians, homemakers, innkeepers, maids, single laywomen, servers, and travelers

Mary—Patron Saint of spiritual studies and lectors

Lazarus—Patron Saint of gravediggers

“Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus” is how John’s Gospel describes Jesus’ special relationship with the three siblings we honor today ([John 11:5](#)). Jesus’ authentic humanity included forming friendships and spending time with friends. He ate and laughed with them, listened to them, and loved them. From Heaven, Jesus extends His perfect human and divine love to everyone.

A journey Jesus and His disciples take from Galilee to Jerusalem introduces Martha and Mary. [Luke 10:38–42](#) tells the familiar story of Jesus, the dinner guest, entering their home in Bethany. As Jesus reclines, Mary listens at His feet. Martha, busy preparing the meal, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus responds, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

Martha would not have spoken so bluntly, in an almost critical way to Jesus, if she did not know Him well. Though she is frustrated, her meal preparation is a labor of love, important to the siblings’ friendship with Jesus. The image of Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet represents the contemplative life to which we are all called. The “better part” reminds us that prayer is most important. Our activity and good works pale in comparison. Only when adoration of God comes first, do good works follow.

In John’s Gospel, the siblings first appear near the end of Jesus’ public ministry, just prior to the first Holy Week (see [John 11:1–44](#)). The story makes clear that Jesus and His apostles know the three siblings from Bethany well. Lazarus is close to death when Martha and Mary summon Jesus. Jesus waits for two days until Lazarus dies before going to Bethany, conversing with Mary and Martha, and raising Lazarus from the dead. In her conversation with Jesus, Martha witnesses to faith, “I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

In contrast, Mary stayed home, sorrowful, perhaps sulking. When Martha tells Mary that Jesus wants to see her, she goes to Him in apparent despair. The Gospel says that Jesus became “perturbed” at Mary’s weeping. The Greek word means, “He snorted in spirit,” perhaps a response to Mary’s lack of hope. After this, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

In [John 12:1–8](#), Jesus is at dinner in Bethany with Martha, Mary, and the risen Lazarus, just six days before Passover and His death. Mary pours a “liter of costly perfumed oil” on Jesus’ feet, drying them with her hair. Though some have associated this act with the tearful sinful woman in [Luke 7:36–39](#), the two women might or might not be the same. Clearly, Jesus’ anointing in Bethany is not the same as the anointing in the Galilee home of Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7. Was Mary of Bethany the sinful woman? Did she anoint Him in Galilee and then again in Bethany? Most modern scholars agree that she is not Mary Magdalene. So, there might be two, or even three, women who have been confused together: Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, and the sinful woman in Luke 7.

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, you befriended Jesus as your Lord and God, and as the Son of Man, to Whom you opened your home and lives. Please pray that I will open the home of my soul so as to befriend Him Who is my God and is the Resurrection and the Life. Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

COMMUNITY NEWS

FEAST OF SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

Join the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place as they celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Intended for all clergy, parishioners, youth and young adults

Date: Saturday, 8 August

Feast Day Masses Times:

- 8:00am & 6:00pm – Chapel
- 10:00am & 1:00pm – Glen Roy Green (outdoors), AusLan interpreted.
- Holy Hour for Young People, with music and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
- 4:30pm-5:45pm

Cost: Free

Contact: ministries@mmp.org.au



ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Engaged Encounter provides couples with deeper insights into each other and into married life, and an opportunity to strengthen and enrich their relationship. **Date:** 8-9 August 2026

MGL SISTERS: HOMECOMING SILENT RETREAT

28-30th August, Carmel House, Varroville

"His father saw him, ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." Lk 15: 20

Your heavenly Father waits for you to come away with him for a weekend of silently soaking in his great love for you. Embrace this opportunity for encountering deep peace and serenity. This retreat is for men and women aged 18+. Hosted by the MGL Sisters.

Choose from a weekend retreat or extend your time with a 5 day retreat option.

Weekend: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBK> extended: <https://www.trybooking.com/DIDBU>

LIVE THE MISSION WEEKEND

Hosted by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, this weekend experience welcomes women ages 18–35 to step into the daily life of the Consecrated Women. Participants stay with the community, join their rhythm of prayer, share meals and conversations, and accompany them in their ministries. Day one also includes a full day retreat with Mass, Adoration, and a spiritual input offered by an inspiring guest speaker.

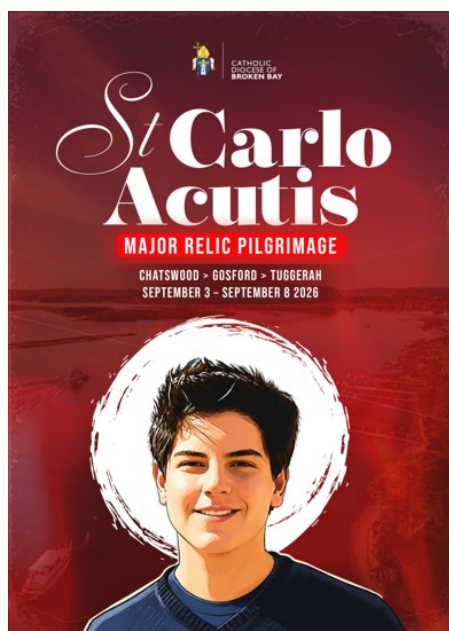
Date: 9am Saturday, 22 August 2026 – 4pm Sunday, 23 August 2026

Location: 116–132 Quakers Road, Marayong NSW 2148

Cost: Free

RSVP by: 17 August 2026

For more information, contact Sr Christine Ramada at vocationscsf@gmail.com



MAJOR RELIC OF ST CARLO ACUTIS

The major relic of St Carlo Acutis will be welcomed into **Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood** on **Thursday, 3 September** with Solemn Vespers at 6:00pm. At 7pm there will be a mass to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Bishop David Walker's installation as Bishop of Broken Bay.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN YEAR 3 OR ABOVE THIS YEAR.

Confirmation classes will be held in October 2026.

Please collect a form from the sacristy office or email the parish for a form.

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

1/8/2026 TO 2/8/2026
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	George A
Reader1	Margaret B	Zachary B	Children MASS
Reader2	John V	Matt W	Children
Prayers	Mary C	Judy H	Children
TV		Jules O	Max F
EMHC		Sophie R	Gebran A
EMHC		Catherine C	Sandra M
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Adam F
Music		John T	Max F
Music			Theresa N
Morning Tea		Mary A	Paula E
FLOWERS	Angela S		

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

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The Parish is offering the Parish bulletin electronically in addition to the printed version.

If you would like to receive the bulletin by email, please send your email address to the parish office arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

DID YOU KNOW...

The Bible was originally written in **three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek**. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, with a few passages in Aramaic, while the entire New Testament was written in Greek, the common language of the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus and the Apostles.

As Christianity spread throughout the world, the Scriptures were translated into many languages so that people everywhere could hear God's Word. One of the most influential translations was the **Latin Vulgate**, completed by **St Jerome** in the 4th century. Today, the Bible has been translated, either in full or in part, into thousands of languages, making it the most widely translated and distributed book in history. Through these translations, God's message of love, hope, and salvation continues to reach people of every nation and generation.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm

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](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsarcadia)



PARISH BANK DETAILS for

ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund



Support our parish!

Scan this QR code to make a donation.

MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and their enduring connection to country, waters, and culture. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Above all we give thanks to **God our Father**, who blesses this land, its people, and all creation. May we live in harmony, justice, and peace, guided by His love.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

St Benedict's Parish is committed to the safety of all, especially children and vulnerable people.

Concerns? Contact Fr Shansana 0437 884 233, or the Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605. For all parish **OH&S and Safeguarding Children** matters Contact the parish office on 9653 2312.