

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



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

*Be perfect,
therefore, as your
heavenly Father is
perfect.*



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 18 & 19 FEBRUARY 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

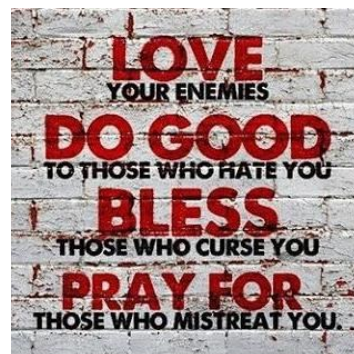
SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is pleasing to you.
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.**

REFLECTION: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48 Jesus says "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Loving, praying and forgiving your enemies is an important teaching about the perfection of God.....to experience the presence of God.

- **Am I trying to be perfect in God's eyes?**
- **Do I forgive my enemies when they have wronged me?**
- **Do I hold on to issues or do I pray about it?**
- **Do I pray for others who have hurt me?**
- **Am I willing turn the other cheek?**



Dear Lord,

I really need you to help me to love those who I have learned to hate. Teach me to pray for my enemies. Help me to learn how to reconcile with others and to forgive them. Teach me to be perfect like You. Amen.

First Reading**Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 (JB)**

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour, as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. The Lord is kind and merciful.****Second Reading****1 Corinthians 3:16-23 (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

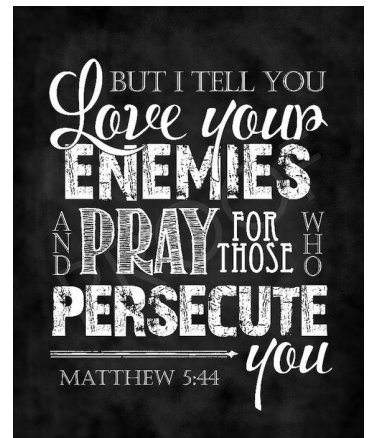
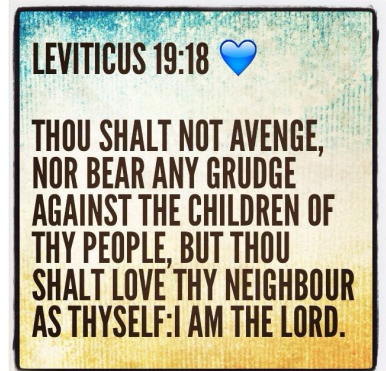
GOSPEL**Matthew 5:38-48 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, February 19
Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

For Israel, the Temple at Jerusalem was the holiest place on earth. A beautiful, gilded structure, it stood as a testament to God's faithfulness. But its splendor and holiness didn't come from its ornate decoration. It came from God's presence within. There, almighty God showed his glory. From there, he blessed his people and offered them a share in his mercy and love.

So when St. Paul told the Corinthians that they were the temple of God, they would have recalled the physical Temple. But the idea that they were holy, like the Temple, must have seemed almost comical. Throughout his letter to them, Paul addresses the many weaknesses of the Corinthian church: their disordered worship, sexual immorality, immature faith, and failures to love. They didn't sound very holy at all. But Paul tells them that they aren't just *like* the Temple; they *are* the very temple of God—and God himself lives within them, by the Holy Spirit.

How can this be? How could the all-holy God dwell amid sinful people like the Corinthians—and us, for that matter? This is the mystery of the mercy and power of God. Through the waters of baptism, God cleanses us of our sins and makes us worthy to receive his Spirit. He fills us with his own presence and makes us holy “temples,” set apart for him.

God so desires to be close to us that he chooses to inhabit imperfect groups of imperfect people. The treasure of his presence dwells in “earthen vessels” (2 Corinthians 4:7). And he dwells in *you*. You may not feel like a beautiful temple; you may feel more like a cracked clay pot. But what makes you holy is not your own goodness; it's Jesus himself, helping you every day, to be perfect, as he is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

“Thank you, Holy Spirit, for living in me! Make me more like Jesus today.”

(Source: Word Among Us India Feb-Mar Pg 12)

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 20 Readings: Sir 1:1-10. Mk 9:14-29.
R: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Tuesday 21 Readings: Sir 2:1-11. Mk 9:30-37.
R: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.
St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor.

ASH
Wednesday 22 Readings: Joel 2:12-18. Mt 6:1-6, 16-18.
R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Thursday 23 Readings: Deut 30:15-20. Lk 9:22-25.
R: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
St Polycarp, bishop, martyr.

Friday 24 Readings: Is 58:1-9. Mt 9:14-15.
R: A broken humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

Saturday 25 Readings: Is 58:9-14. Lk 5:27-32.
R: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may be faithful in your sight.

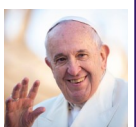


Source: Ordo 2023

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2023

FOR PARISHES

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

Daily in one's prayer, with tears and sighs, to confess one's past sins to God.

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

LENTEN GROUP

Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone encouraging our community to make Lent much more meaningful and spiritual. Reflecting on God's Word together and applying the Sunday readings to daily life. Seeking God together and praying for one another.

**Commencing Wednesday 1st of March at 7pm
(every Wednesday thereafter until Good Friday)**

Address: 726A Old Northern Road, Dural.
Ph: Benigna 0450 311 951

Program led by Gebran Azzi.

Everyone welcome!

(If you would like to hold a Lenten group at your place during Lent on another night or day please contact the parish office or Father Shansana.)

MEDITATION DAYS ST BENEDICT'S MONASTERY, ARCADIA

Invitation to St Benedict's Monastery,
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia for 2023:
Sundays - 19th February, 21st May, 20th August and 19th November. For our Introduction and Renewal Days for Christian Meditation.
Timetable : Arrival from 10am to register for a 10:30am start, presentations, introduction to meditation, periods of meditation, Mass, information exchange, conclusion around 3pm.
Book display and morning tea provided, BYO picnic lunch.

Masks are optional, recommend social distancing and vaccination for one's own personal protection.

Enquires : Ann Bergman,
anniebergman@hotmail.com or
Ann Lomas , atlomas@bigpond.com / 9653 2637
Possible accommodation in the Monastery Guest House:
Fr Michael Kelly, 0455 329 607 mkelly@silvestrini.org

ASH WEDNESDAY 22nd February 2023

Now is the time to bring back last year's dried palms or olive branches to the church so that they may be burned in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

Traditionally, it is the ashes of these burnt palms and olive branches that are used on that day as a sign of our commitment to follow Jesus in His journey to the events that has become for us the Paschal Mystery.

We need you to bring in last year's palms and olive branches that you took home from Palm Sunday as soon as possible please.

**Ash Wednesday Mass and distribution of ashes:
ASH WEDNESDAY February 22:
9.30am and 7.00pm**

ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Bernard McGrath

22th February 1969 - 54 years

Congratulations and best wishes on the Anniversary of your Religious profession commitment.

The parish of St Benedict's give thanks to the Lord for Father Bernard's vocation and his faithful commitment to the Lord. May God continue to bless and accompany him to be a wonderful instrument in proclaiming His mercy and love.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

In Our Parish

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

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,
especially Michela Scotti, Tim Hewitt and Denise Perry.....may they Rest in Peace.**



ST BENEDICT'S MEN'S MEET & GREET

We had our first meet and greet for men last Monday.

This was a great evening and an opportunity for men to get together and share their thoughts on different aspects of their lives and current life topics.

The age group was varied and we look forward to next month's get together.

A big **thank you** for the men helping out moving the office furniture out as it was a great help for the carpet change.

Also a big thank you to the **Gaitau, Raish & Williams'** young men helping on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. We really appreciate all the great help!

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week we would like to thank **MARY ABOOD** for volunteering to do the morning tea, TV, helps with children's Mass, fundraising stalls, looks after kids colouring pencils by keeping them sharp and maintaining them! Mary does this all with such a willingness! Thank you for everything you do for us!

*Is there someone you would like to nominate?
Please mention it to Fr Shansana or Paula.*

ATTENTION: ALL MUSICIANS

All music books are now housed in the cupboard in the sound room. Please borrow and return them back.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RESUMES

For those already enrolled:
First Reconciliation Classes begin:

Mondays 6th March 2023 until 27th March 2023 – 4.15pm to 5.15pm

Wednesdays 8th March 2023 until 29th March 2023 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

1st Reconciliation on – Saturday 1st April - 10am

(our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation).



Confirmation Eucharist Reconciliation

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.



CATECHISTS' NEWS

This weekend we celebrate Catechist Sunday throughout the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. "Catechist Sunday originated in 1935 when the Vatican published a document 'On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education', which acknowledged the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and asked every country to honour those catechists who serve within their Christian communities. As catechists begin another year of ministry, parishes are invited to stop and think about the dedicated work of these volunteers."

(<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/evangelisation/ccd/resources>)

We acknowledge and thank the volunteer Catechists of our parish –

Arcadia PS – Lower primary – Miriam Brown
Upper primary – Denise Youl
Reserve – Rose Granata

Galston PS – Kindergarten – Paula El-Chaar
Years 1&2 – Bernadette Watt
Years 3&4 – Gebran Azzi
Years 5&6 – Paul El-Chaar

Glenorie PS – Kindergarten –
Mary Abood and Violet Bomerhe
Year 1 – Glenice Lui
Year 2 – Delel Touma
Year 3 – Rita Sarkis
Year 4 – Gebran Azzi
Year 5 – Miriam Brown
Year 6 – Fr Bernard McGrath

Hillside PS – Lower primary – Marinka Marinov
Upper primary – Sally Souma

Middle Dural PS – Lower primary – Pauline Honor
Upper primary – Josephine Letteri

Catechist-in-training – Martina Jutrisa

This year Paul El-Chaar will be teaching Christian Education at Galston High School, thanks Paul!

Also, those involved in Children's Ministry in our parish:

Sacramental Program – Nerida Woodbury, Gebran Azzi, Paula El-Chaar, Mary Cascun and Glenice Lui.

Children's Masses – Natalie Georges and Mary Abood.

I would also like to thank our retiring Catechists – Leonie Miller, Colleen Appino, Lucy Sorbello and Tony Jasprizza. May God bless you for your years of service as Catechists!

SRE (Scripture) starting dates:

Arcadia, Glenorie and Middle Dural returned to classes this week.

Hillside – Friday 24th February

Galston – Wednesday 1st March – **note changed date**

We need more Reserve Catechists and helpers, so if you are available on Wednesday or Friday morning during school terms and love being with children, talk to myself or one of our Catechists or any of our priests.

God bless,
Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Coordinator

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

Please join us for World Day of Prayer on:

Date: Friday 3rd of March 2023, 10.30am
Location: Seventh Day Adventist Church
49 Arcadia Road,
GALSTON

For more information contact Pauline Honor Ph: 0490 025 759.

Country being presented: TAIWAN. Christian ladies in Taiwan have prepared the service for World Day of Prayer.



Artist: Hui-Wen HSAIO

Hui-Wen HSAIO was born in Tainan, Taiwan, in 1993. In 2017, she received her bachelor's degree in Visual Communication Design at Kun Shan University in Tainan. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Intermedia Art Therapy (Intermediate Kunsttherapie) at MSH Medical School in Hamburg, Germany.

"I Have Heard About Your Faith"

The theme is God's promise in the letter to the Ephesians, which is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers.

Following the example of the letter (Ephesians 1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.



HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES

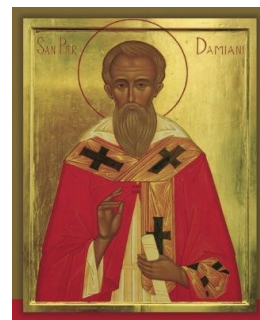
Fr Shansana celebrated a beautiful Mass on Thursday for the local homeschooling families. He also gave all the children a special blessing and encouragement as they begin the academic year.

Thank you Fr Shansana!

Saint Peter Damian: c. 1007–1072

Feast Day: February 21

Patron Saint of Faenza and Font-Avellano, Italy



Orphan, laborer, student, monk, hermit, priest, theologian, teacher, writer, poet, ascetic, penitent, prior, reformer, bishop, cardinal, saint...these are but a few words to describe today's courageous saint.

Peter was the youngest child born into a poor but noble family in Ravenna, Italy. His parents died when he was young, so he went to live with one of his older brothers who mistreated him and forced him to labor as a swineherd. Eventually, another brother, a priest from Ravenna named Father Damian, took him in and provided him with an excellent education in which he greatly excelled. Peter was so grateful to his priest brother that he added his brother's name to his own, making him Peter Damian.

Upon the completion of his education, Peter Damian began to teach with much success. However, he soon found that the university setting was not for him, so he withdrew to a monastery in Fonte-Avellana for a forty-day retreat. Upon completing his retreat, he discerned a call to monastic life and received the habit.

As a monk, Peter Damian lived a secluded life of prayer and extreme penance. His penances were so severe that they affected his health more than once. Eventually, his intellectual gifts were used once again when he was asked to teach his fellow monks. For the next few years, he taught in his own and neighboring monasteries and also began to write. One of his first works was the *Vita*, or "Life" of Saint Romuald, a recently deceased monk from his monastery known for his exceptional holiness.

In 1043, at the young age of thirty-five, Brother Peter Damian was named the prior of his monastery. He led the brothers with zeal and fidelity to their rule. He also began founding new hermitages in the surrounding villages.

At that time, Pope Benedict IX was a truly scandalous pope who had obtained the papacy through bribery and lived an immoral life. In 1045, the pope decided to leave the papacy to marry his cousin. Before doing so, he wrote to his godfather, Father John Gratian, for advice. Being a holy man, Father Gratian encouraged him to resign, which Benedict did, leaving the papacy to Father Gratian, who became Pope Gregory VI. Brother Peter Damian was overjoyed at the change and wrote to the new pope, encouraging him to tackle corruption and scandal within the Church. In the years that followed, more than one pope called on Brother Peter Damian to help accomplish that very goal. He wrote many letters in an attempt to bring about reforms of the clergy, fought against simony (the selling of Church offices and spiritual favors), addressed sexual abuses, challenged the bishops, reformed monasteries, and gave a spectacular personal witness of holiness.

In 1057, Brother Damian was made the Cardinal-Bishop of Ostia by the pope, despite his attempts to turn down the position. As a new cardinal, he quickly challenged his brother cardinals and tried to weed out corruption. He would eventually return to his hermitage and resume his life of prayer, but his fervor in fighting against the evils of the time continued. Pope after pope called on him for help, even while other Church leaders opposed him.

In 1072, at the age of sixty-five after battling one corruption after another, Cardinal Peter Damian fell ill. After a week of illness in a monastery near his hometown, the cardinal died while the monks chanted around his bed.

Every age of the Church has different needs. In the eleventh century, the Church needed an unwavering and courageous voice for reform. Saint Peter Damian was that voice. Though his heart was most at home in his monastery doing penance and chanting the psalms, his body was actively eradicating the mold that had covered the Church. Through his valiant efforts, many parts of the Church began to radiate as the Bride of Christ once again.

Each of us is called to be a reformer in one way or another. First, we must seek to reform our own souls by eliminating sin through prayer, penance, and fidelity to God's Law. From there, God will use us to extend His reform to others. Ponder any ways that you need to reform your own life, and then offer yourself to God's service so that He can use you to weed out the evils you encounter in your daily life.

Saint Peter Damian, you were drawn to a life of solitude, prayer, and penance. From that hidden life as a monk, God sent you forth to reform His wounded Church. You answered the call with courage and zeal. Please pray for me, that I will never shy away from reforming my own life and that I will always answer the call to be an instrument of that reformation wherever I am sent. Saint Peter Damian, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

NEW ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY. PLEASE PICK UP A COPY.

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

25/2/23 to 26/2/23

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	
Reader1	Margaret B	Rebecca R	Ava M
Reader2	Miriam B	Bernadette W	Leon J
Prayers	Mary C	Matt W	Emma M
TV		Teresa G	Sebastian W
Music		Karina S	Mark Q
Music		Noelle T	Martina J
Music			Marisa Q
Music			David Y
Morning Tea		Lila B	
 FLOWERS	NOT DURING LENT		

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

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

Parish Administrator: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@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.