St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



	Jul	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY			
PARISH M	asses	IN ORDINARY TIME			
Weekend: Saturday	7:00pm Vigil	YEAR A			
Sunday Sunday	9:00am 10:30am	22 & 23 JULY 2023			
Weekday: Mondays to	o Thursdays 9:30am	ENTRANCE ANTIPHON See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.			
Fridays	6.30pm Adoration 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)				
		SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER			
Saturdays	10am to 11am Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)	Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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. <i>Amen.</i>			
MONASTE	RY CHAPEL Masses	SELF REFLECTION: RIGHT FROM WRONG			
		Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 13:24-30			
Sundays Daily	7:00am 7:00am	"Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well."			
Please con	tact Father Shansana for the	• Do I allow my life only to be filled with God's words?			
following:		• Do I take care not to let the enemy "sow weeds" in my life?			
BAPTISMS		 Do I condone or encourage what is not of God? 			
RECONCILIATION		• Do I practice humility, patience and tolerance towards others as I allow God to work in my life?			
FOR THE SICK					
MARRIAG	ES				
FUNERAL	5				
Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233		PRAYER Dear Lord, fill my life only with Your words. Help me know what is right from wrong. Give me the courage to stand up for what is not right. Help me encourage others to do what is right. Amen.			

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 (JB)

A reading from the book of Wisdom In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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 13:24-30 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *Let them grow together until the harvest.*

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

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







Book of Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

You give repentance for sins.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Sunday, July 23 Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 Romans 8:26-27 Matthew 13:24-43

Whoever has ears ought to hear. (Matthew 13:43)

Does Jesus' explanation of today's parable make you uncomfortable? Especially his image of God sending his angels to toss the "children of the evil one" into a "fiery furnace" (Matthew 13:42)? If a loving human Father would never treat his children that way, how could God, our heavenly Father, do such a thing?

If you find this story troubling, it might help to know you're in good company. Even the ancient Fathers of the Church were divided on how to interpret it. In the third century, Origen of Alexandria taught that these "children of the evil one" were not individual people (Matthew 13:38). Rather, they were the "evil opinions" that the devil sows in our souls (Commentary on Matthew, 10.2). He said that God wants to burn these sinful thoughts and attitudes out of everyone so they can enter eternal life.

On the other hand. St. John Chrysostom, writing about a hundred years later, said that the "children of the evil one" were indeed sinners. These, Chrysostom said, would be "given over to punishment," and a "severe" punishment at that. Meanwhile, the righteous would "depart into the kingdom of heaven" (On Matthew, Homily 47).

You may favor Origen's view or Chrysostom's, but both men make one thing clear: sin is serious. It burdens us. It darkens our minds and poisons our hearts. It keeps us from loving each other and receiving God's love. But they also both taught that Jesus offers us the only way to escape its grasp: his cross and resurrection.

Jesus ended his parable with a warning: "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Matthew 13:43). Let's do just that. Let's take his words to heart. Let's believe that his grace is powerful enough to save us from sin. Let's trust that he can make us "shine like the sun" (13:43).

"Jesus, give me ears to hear you as you call me out of sin and into your kingdom."

Source: Word Among Us

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

- Monday 24 Readings: Ex 14:5-18. Mt 12:38-42.
 R: Let us sing to the lord; he has covered himself in glory. *St Charbel Makhlouf, priest.*Tuesday 25 Readings: 2 Cor 4:7-15. Mt 20:20-28.
 R: Those who sow in tears, shall reap with shouts of joy.
- Wednesday 26 Readings: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15. Mt 13:1-9. R: The Lord gave them bread from heaven. Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Thursday 27 Readings: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20. Mt 13:10-17. R: Glory and praise for ever!

St James, apostle.

- Friday 28Readings: Ex 20:1-17. Mt 13:18-23.
R: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.
- Saturday 29 Readings: 1 Jn 4:7-16. Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42. R: I will bless the Lord of all times. Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus.



we thank You for giving us St. Charbel as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the piety he practiced throughout his life, beginning when he was a small child at home.

Dear Lord,

St. Charbel,

you grew up in the home of a pious mother. From the time you were very young, you were attracted to the practice of virtue. You were drawn to learning about the lives of the saints, and you strove to imitate their piety. Pray that I may practice piety as you did! Pray for me, that I may remain firm in virtue and holiness my whole life, as you did.

St. Charbel, pray for us!

Amen.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2023

FOR A EUCHARISTIC LIFE

July

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To reverence the old.

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

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MEETING

Our next Fatima meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 July at 7pm.

Everyone welcome to attend the meeting.



ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Did you know that you can arrange Masses through Aid to the Church in Need? All Mass stipends that are given to ACN are sent directly to priests in need who will offer a Mass for your intentions. For many priests in the poorest parts of the world, these Mass stipends are a vital contribution to their survival and to their work on behalf of their parish. To learn more and arrange a Mass,

visit www.aidtochurch.org/masses

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

is now open, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in August 2023.

The forms are available in the sacristy, otherwise please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list. The form is also available on the parish website.

In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is:

Confirmation, Reconciliation, then Eucharist. Children are usually prepared for these sacraments in Years 3 and 4.





St Vincent de Paul Society NSW good works

ST.VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

We are hoping to collect any **non-perishable food** and **toiletries** you may be able to donate.

We also want to express our gratitude for the generous donations we have received through the Poor Boxes in the church. These donations and those from our appeals are hugely appreciated as we are helping so many more families suffering hardship in these difficult times.

We take this opportunity to welcome Marie Endicott as a new member of Arcadia Conference. We are delighted to have her on board.

Rita, Lila, Marie & Karen - Vinnies Arcadia.



Star A J

CatholicCare

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Please help us fundraise for CatholicCare's homelessness services across the Diocese

Donor envelopes available during Mass Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 August.

Most Holy Saints Anne and Joachim, come close to us and guide our hand and our hearts in the way of virtue. Help us to parent our children and grandchildren with a gentle heart as you did. Show us how to raise our children in faith and bring our families into the Light of Jesus. 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 Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum) and Jenny Taylor.



We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Tony Takchi, Rosaria Cali, *Carmen Camilleri and Karl Maurer, and Lyla Abood (first anniversary). May they rest in Peace.*

THE ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry is now open for applications for 2023.

Details below:

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice, and pastoral care.

More information and Applications Forms are available on our website.

pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship

Closing Date 4 August 2023

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Message of the Holy Father

Dear brothers and sisters!

"His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). This is the theme of the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and it takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-56). Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth addressed the Mother of God with words that, millennia later, continue to echo in our daily prayer: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (v. 42). The Holy Spirit, who had earlier descended upon Mary, prompted her to respond with the *Magnificat*, in which she proclaimed that the Lord's mercy is from generation to generation. That same Spirit blesses and accompanies every fruitful encounter between different generations: between grandparents and grandchildren, between young and old. God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly, as Mary did to Elizabeth, and gain wisdom from their experiences. Yet, above all, the Lord wants us not to abandon the elderly or to push them to the margins of life, as tragically happens all too often in our time.

Dear grandparents, dear elderly brothers and sisters, may the blessing of the embrace between Mary and Elizabeth come upon you and fill your hearts with peace. With great affection, I give you my blessing. And I ask you, please, to pray for me.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2023, Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~POPE FRANCIS

CCC PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meeting held every Friday nights: after 7pm Mass Wednesday mornings: after 9.30am Mass.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

The lay apostolate is unquestionably "secular". It requires that the laity "seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will" (cf. SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium, 31). In their daily life, interwoven with family and social relationships, the laity come to realize that they "are given this special vocation: to make the Church present and fruitful in those places and circumstances where it is only through them that she can become the salt of the earth" (ibid., 33). We do well to remember, however, that in addition to this apostolate, "the laity can be called in different ways to more immediate cooperation in the apostolate of the hierarchy, like those men and women who helped the apostle Paul in the Gospel, working hard in the Lord" (ibid.). Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 10 May 2021 Instituting the Ministry of Catechist

Term 3 started this week.

The Safeguarding Children training for all Catechists is being held on Thursday 3rd August 9:30am - 12:30pm at the parish.

If you would like to learn more about being a Catechist or a helper, please talk to myself, or one of our parish Catechists or any of our priests. Training, a Teacher's Manual and workbooks are provided free.

God bless, Miriam Brown <u>srearcadia@gmail.com</u> Parish Catechist Co-ordinator





VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

Thank you to everyone who helps out our parish making it into the beautiful community we have.

For the nomination this week we would like to thank:

FOGARTY FAMILY

Thank you for helping out singing and TV and whenever we need help. We really appreciate it!

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

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome. For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.



SAINT CHARBEL MAKHLOUF, PRIEST, HERMIT



1828–1898 Feast Day July 24 Patron Saint of Lebanon *Canonized by Pope Paul VI on October 9, 1977*

Jousef Antoun Makhlouf was born in the village of Bekaa Kafra, North Lebanon. The youngest of five children, he was baptized into the Maronite Rite of the Catholic Church. The Makhlouf family lived in the highest mountain village in Lebanon and were peasant farmers. His father, who died when Jousef was only three, was a mule driver. After his father's death, his mother remarried; his stepfather later was ordained a priest where he ministered at the local parish. It is the long-standing custom within the Maronite Catholic Church that married men may become priests.

From a young age, Jousef lived a holy and devout life. Two of his uncles were hermits, and Jousef was inspired by their example. As a youth, he tended the cattle and often spent long periods of prayer in the wilderness while his cattle grazed. He was

especially devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and set up a shrine to her in a nearby cave. From an early age, he knew God was calling him to the priesthood and the monastic life, especially as a hermit.

In 1851, at the age of twenty-three, Jousef left his family, never to return, and entered the Monastery of Our Lady in Mayfouq, of the Maronite Catholic Church. His mother later wrote to him saying, "If you weren't to be a good religious, I would say to you: Come back home. But I know now that the Lord wants you in His service. And in my pain at being separated from you, I say to him, resigned: May He bless you, my child." As a newly professed monk, Jousef took the name Charbel, after Saint Charbel the Martyr, a second century military officer who was martyred in Antioch during a persecution by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

As a monk, Brother Charbel longed to be a hermit and made the request to his superiors many times. For the first twenty -four years of his religious life, his superiors required that he live in community with the other monks. He was first transferred to the Monastery of Saint Maroun in Annaya where he professed his vows, was then sent to the Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina where he studied theology and philosophy, was ordained a priest in 1859 at the age of thirty-one, and returned to the Monastery of Saint Maroun where he remained for the next sixteen years.

Though some monks lived as hermits, that vocation was reserved for those who proved themselves capable of such solitude and asceticism. In 1875, at the age of forty-seven, Father Charbel was given permission to enter the Hermitage of Saints Peter and Paul to live as a hermit after a miraculous event took place. Some of his fellow monks decided to play a prank on him, filling his oil lamp with water. When he returned to his cell, he took his water-filled lamp, lit it, and it burned. When the superiors heard about this, they inspected the lamp and found it to be filled with water. Unable to explain the miracle, the superiors saw it as a sign of his sanctity and agreed to permit him to become a hermit, according to his desire. He was sent to the Hermitage of Saints Peter and Paul where he spent the next twenty-three years in solitude, embracing a strict regime of daily prayer, manual work, and severe asceticism. In 1898, at the age of seventy, Brother Charbel suffered a stroke while offering Mass and died eight days later on Christmas Eve. He was buried in the ground without a coffin, according to the custom of his order.

Though Saint Charbel lived a life of extraordinary holiness, it wasn't until after his death that his holiness became wellknown beyond the walls of the monasteries. After his burial, light was seen shining forth from his grave. This phenomenon drew the attention of many villagers who braved the cold and snow to see this mysterious light. After four months, permission was granted by the Church authorities to exhume his body. To the wonderment of all, his body was found to be completely incorrupt. His skin and joints were like one who was sleeping, soft and flexible. He was cleaned of the dirt and mud from his gravesite and placed in a coffin in the monastery chapel. Then something else began to happen. Blood and sweat appeared to be coming forth from his pores, soaking his habit. It was so pronounced that his clothing needed to be changed twice a week. Finally, in 1927, his body was carefully examined by two physicians from Beiurut, placed in another coffin, and sealed in a tomb inside the monastery wall.

A little more than two decades later, a blood-like liquid was seen coming from the corner of the wall behind which Charbel was buried. In the 1950's, his tomb was opened three times. One of those times was broadcast on television and attended by high-ranking state officials, religious officials, medical doctors and scientists. In 1965 his body was found, once again, to be incorrupt and exuding the same blood and sweat. Finally, in 1976, the year before his canonization, his body was found to have finally decayed, only the bones remaining. Interestingly, the decay of Charbel's body coincided with the early days of the devastating civil war that broke out in Lebanon in 1975. In 1976, the Damour massacre took place. Palestinians attacked the Maronite Christian town. Many of Damour's residents were killed in battle, massacred, or forced to flee.

Ever since Charbel's burial, those who have visited his grave have attributed many miracles to his intercession. This was especially the case in the 1950's when he was found incorrupt after fifty years. At that time, the monks started to keep track of miraculous cures that were attributed to Father Charbel's intercession. Within two years, they had a list of more than twelve thousand reported cures. Devotion to him and his incorrupt body spread rapidly. The devotion, coupled with reports of numerous miracles, led to a new evangelization across Lebanon. God uses us all in varied ways. Saint Charbel was used after his death to evangelize Lebanon and beyond. In life, he was deeply united to God.

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He responded to his vocation as a hermit, living a life of daily penance, sacrifice, deep prayer, and humble service as a priest. As a result, he became one of the most influential saints of the past century. Saint Charbel did great things for the simple reason that he prayed and followed the will of God. Each of us is capable of doing the same. Ponder God's will for your life today and resolve to fulfill that mission without any hesitation. Doing so will enable our divine Lord to do great things through you in ways that you might not ever even know until Heaven.

Saint Charbel, you were called into the solitary life of a monk and then a hermit, and you responded. You kept your eyes upon Christ, and He transformed your humble soul into a glorious beacon of light for the world to see. Please pray for me, that I will receive the grace I need to be faithful to the vocation God has given me and that I will respond with the same generosity and commitment that you manifested in your earthly life. Saint Charbel, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



HARDSHIPS

In recent times many of us have been grappling with financial hardships and unfortunately it is easy to fall into the trap and blame ourselves. However, for many it is important to remember, especially today, that financial struggles are not a sign of failure, rather they are a testament to the human condition, its complexity, and the unpredictable nature of life. Often, these difficulties cast a profound impact on our mental and physical well-being, creating a ripple effect that can strain our relationships and daily routines.

When experiencing financial problems, it is crucial to remember the importance of seeking help. There is no shame in reaching out for support; it demonstrates wisdom and courage. Our ego can often stand as a roadblock in the way of assistance, yet it is essential to remember that life's burdens are not meant to be carried alone.

In a similar vein, when we see others, particularly family members, grappling with such hardships, it is our moral duty to extend a helping hand. As the Apostle Paul states in Galatians 6:2,"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." This passage teaches us about the power of collective strength, the beauty of empathy, and our call to action in times of adversity.

Aiding others in their financial struggles is not merely a transactional act. It is a way to create stronger bonds, build resilient communities, and ultimately foster a culture of mutual support and understanding. We are all interconnected, and helping those in need reaffirms this truth.

Remember, struggling financially is not a solitary journey. Let's break down the walls of pride, share our burdens, and cultivate a world where support and understanding thrive. No one should feel alone in their financial hardships. The journey may be arduous, but together, we can lighten the load.

This week let's take a moment to share a prayer for all those who are currently facing financial struggles:

Lord, we lift up those who are under the weight of financial hardship. We pray for your comforting presence in their lives and the strength to seek help without shame. Guide them towards solutions, bring helpers their way, and soften the hearts of those around them to offer assistance. May they experience your divine provision and remember that through you, all things are possible. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY – PLEASE COLLECT							
Your name is marked on your copy							
NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER							
29/7/2023 to 30/7/2023							
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A							
	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am				
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul C				
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Peter G	Ava M				
Reader2	Miriam B	Gebran A	Steve M				
Prayers	Maria G	Teresa G	Mirko J				
TV		Jules O	Leon J				
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H				
Music		Noelle T	Marissa Q				
Music		John T	Theresa N				
Music							
Morning Tea		Rosie S					
FLOWERS	Tania T						

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.

Website:

Easabaak

www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

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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	Гасероок:	stbenedictsarcadia	
Parish Office: Email:	, 02 9653 2312 arcadia.parish@bigpond.com	MONASTERY:	9653 1159	Facebook
Parish Priest: Email: After hours:	Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com 0437 884 233	BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund		
Address: Postal address:			ng Children matters	•