# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





Jesus comes to fulfil the law

# SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A 11 & 12 FEBRUARY 2023

## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

#### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling 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: VIRTUE**

**Sunday's Gospel**, Matthew Mt 5:17-37 Jesus says "For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven." The scribes and Pharisees virtue was mainly measured by external observance of the law. For Jesus real virtue is in the heart. He expects our relationships with others to be honourable and respectful. **Virtue meaning: Having high moral standards.** 

- Do I focus on Jesus to clean my thoughts of impurity?
- Am I respectful to my family, friends and strangers?
- Do I honour my spouse by being faithful and kind?
- Do I try not to make promises I cannot keep?
- Am I trustworthy and keep my word?



#### Dear Lord,

Help me to become more like You in my thoughts, in my words and my deeds. Help me not to retaliate when I am abused but only to pray for them. Help me to clear my thoughts of any impurities. Help me to always seek after that which is good and be willing to turn the other cheek. Amen.

# **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 Daily 7:00am 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS RECONCILIATION FOR THE SICK MARRIAGES FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

# SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## First Reading

*Sirach 15:15-20 (JB)* A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus *He never commanded anyone to be godless.* 

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a men likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin. *The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.* 

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

#### Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10 (JB)** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths 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 (short version)** *Matthew 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37 (JB)* A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.* 

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

# Great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows every human action.

Sirach 15,18-19

Living in the Power of the Gospel of Christ:

Treasuring God's Wisdom

1 Corinthians 2:6-10



Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2023

#### GOSPEL REFLECTION Sunday, February 12 Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37

Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19)

What would our world be like if everyone lived out the teachings that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel? It would be a world where people work out their differences peacefully. Where husbands and wives are always faithful to one another. Where no one told a lie or engaged in dishonest deals.

Such a world might seem impossible, but this is the world that God has always intended for his people. It's the kingdom that Jesus announced was "at hand" at the beginning of his ministry (Matthew 3:2). It's the kingdom that he ushered in by his death and resurrection. If it seems hidden in some ways, that's because it's still under construction! We won't experience it fully until Jesus comes again.

But that doesn't mean we can't at least begin to experience God's kingdom today. In fact, God is calling us to *build* the kingdom. How? We can begin by taking Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as a blueprint for our lives. He calls us to pray and not worry about our daily needs. To care for the poor. To forgive as God has forgiven us. To love our enemies. To turn the other cheek. When we do these things, we make God's kingdom visible.

Because Jesus' teachings can be challenging, we might try to make excuses for ourselves or think that only the saints can obey them. But the more we try to live out Jesus' words, the more his Spirit fills our efforts with his divine grace. And the more we come to realize that it doesn't depend only on us, but also on God's power within us.

Today at Mass, ask the Lord how you might bring God's kingdom to the places where you live and work. Rely on his teachings to guide you and the Spirit to empower you. Above all, stay alert, because opportunities to build the kingdom of God will surely come your way!

"Jesus, may your kingdom come through me and all your people!"

#### LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

- Monday 13 Readings: Gen 4:1-15,25. Mt 8:11-13 R: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise.
- Tuesday 14Readings: Gen 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10. Mk 8:14-21.R: The Lord will bless his people with peace.Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop.
- Wednesday 15 Readings: Gen 8:6-13, 20-22. Mk 8:22-26. R: To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.
- Thursday 16Readings: Gen 9:1-13. Mk 8:27-33.R: From heaven the Lord looks down on the earth.
- Friday 17 Readings: Gen 11:1-9. Mk 8:34-9:1. R: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order.

Saturday 18 Readings: Heb 11:1-7. Mk 9:2-13. R: He was transfigured in their presence.



(Source: Word Among Us India Feb-Mar Pg 9)

# 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 - 19<sup>th</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 20th August and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 , <u>atlomas@bigpond.com</u> / 9653 2637 Possible accommodation in the Monastery Guest House: Fr Michael Kelly, 0455 329 607 <u>mkelly@silvestrini.org</u>

#### 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: Wednesday February 22: 9.30am and 7.00pm



## ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

#### Father David Orr

#### 13th February 1967 - 56 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 David'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.

## ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

#### **Brother Terence Kavenagh**

#### 4th February 1979 - 44 years

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

Your devotion and commitment towards your vocation and your service is inspiring. May God bless you and keep you in good health for many years to come.

# 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.





# **MEN'S MEET & GREET**

Men's Meet & Greet group commencing: **Monday February 13th 2023**. Time: 7pm to 8pm. Venue: St Benedict's parish meeting room.

Help us grow together in community of St Benedict's. Do you know all the men in our parish? This is an opportunity to get together and meet the other men in our parish community and have a chat. Bring a friend if you wish.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

For further information please contact the parish office on 9653 2312.

# **VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!**

There are so many people we need to thank for helping out our parish by volunteering. So many work behind the scenes and not many parishioners know what they do for our beautiful parish. This time we would like to thank **MELANIE HUME** for working on the rosters which is such a big task as well as music and ensuring Easter and Christmas Masses go smoothly organising all the rosters, music and booklets. Thank you Melanie!

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

NEW ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY. PLEASE PICK UP A COPY. From the 28/1/2023 to 15/4/2023

#### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RESUMES

For those already enrolled: First Reconciliation Classes begin:

Mondays 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 until 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 4.15pm to 5.15pm Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 until 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation on – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 10am

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



Confirmation Euchariat Reconciliation

## **CCC PRAYER GROUP**



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.

Prayer meeting held every

# **CATECHISTS' NEWS**

Looking forward to starting SRE (Scripture) again! Many classes will be starting back this week.

SRE (Scripture) starting dates -

Arcadia, Glenorie and Middle Dural – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Galston – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Hillside – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February – \*\*note changed date\*\*

It is important that we have reserve Catechists or helpers, so if you are available on Wednesday or Friday mornings during school terms and love being with children, why not consider joining this worthwhile ministry. Free training, support and books are provided.

If you are interested, please contact myself or Paula at the parish office or any of our priests.

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



## SUPPORT TURKEY AND SYRIA

Turkey and Syria have been struck by a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which has caused at least 21,000 deaths and count is still rising. Your support is needed now.

DONATE NOW

https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/middle-east-crisisappeal-turkey-syria/

## **MESSAGE FROM FR HILARION**

Hello, hope you all are well.

Here are my current details: Email: hilarionfernando @yahoo.com Mobile: +94776226622.

Postal address: C/O Sacred Heart Church, Kotte Rd, Rajagiriya, Srilanka.

Wish you all God's blessings!

Fr. Hilarion osb

# **ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP**

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



#### 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.



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 Kunstterapie) 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.

#### **NOTICE: PARISH CARPET CHANGE**

Part of the Parish Church carpet will be changed on Wednesday 15th of February 2023 at 7am (this is due to the damaged carpet in the front). That day Wednesday morning Mass will be held in the Church Hall 9.30am.

We are also removing the carpet in the office and having it changed on the same day.

We need help removing all the office furniture and equipment on Tuesday 14th February late afternoon. We also need help returning the furniture and equipment as well as the pews on Wednesday afternoon around 3pm.

Your help would be appreciated!

If you are available to help on either of those days please either turn up or call Paul on 0408 277 718.



#### PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY AND SYRIA

The massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria has been devastating for millions of people.

At the time of writing there are over 21000 dead with that number rising by the minute; tens or even hundreds of thousands injured and countless others homeless. It is winter and bitterly cold, families are separated and many unable to find their loved ones, not knowing if they are alive or dead. We also hear of many people trapped alive in the rubble.

So let us pray together:

Gracious God.

we pray for the victims of this disaster in Turkey and Syria.

Lord, bring comfort to those whose lives were spared and care for those who perished.

Be with the rescue workers and keep them safe as they make heroic efforts in dangerous situations to rescue those in trouble.

Help family members to be reunited.

God of healing and mercy, we come before you with our hearts filled with grief as we see the devastation. We pray that your presence would be felt by those who are grieving, who are injured, who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

We pray through your loving son, Jesus. Amen.

# Saint Cyril, Monk: c. 827-869

# Saint Methodius, Bishop: c. 815-885



## Feast Day: February 14

#### Co-Patrons of Europe, Slavic peoples, unity of Eastern and Western Churches

Imagine what life would be like if you were unable to read because the language you spoke was not even in written form. No alphabet, no books, only a spoken language. This is the context into which our saints today were sent to preach the Gospel. Their story began in Thessalonica, Greece, a territory first evangelized by Saint Paul. Seven sons were born to a Greek-speaking imperial magistrate and his wife. Two of the boys were named Constantine and Michael. Their mother was most likely of Slavic descent, and the boys learned her unwritten language, along with Greek and Latin. When Constantine was about fourteen years old, he was sent to the great Greek city of Constantinople to study. It was there that he also came to know the young Byzantine Emperor, Michael III, who was only a young child. After completing his education, Constantine decided to become a priest. Shortly after his ordination, he was invited to teach and soon became well-known as the "Philosopher." Constantine's brother Michael, about twelve years older than Constantine, began his career in civil service in Macedonia but chose to abandon that position to become a monk, taking the name Methodius.

When Constantine was about thirty years old and his brother Methodius was in his early 40s, Constantine decided to give up his teaching career and embrace a life of prayer in his brother's monastery. Within a few years, however, Emperor Michael III, now an adult, asked Constantine to go on a mission to evangelize the Jews and Turks of Khazars, modern-day Russia, Ukraine, and Crimea. Methodius accompanied him on this mission, and they learned both Hebrew and Turkish so as to speak to the people in their native tongues.

Within a couple of years, Prince Rastislav of Moravia asked Emperor Michael III to send missionaries to Great Moravia, today's Czech Republic. His people had rejected paganism and embraced Christianity, but they didn't have anyone who could explain the faith to them in their native Slavic language since the Germanic clergy adhered strictly to Latin. It was this mission that would be the beginning of a new era and a new method of evangelization within the Church.

In Great Moravia, Constantine and Methodius began to translate the Bible and liturgical books into the Slavic language. Since there was no written form of the language or even an alphabet, Cyril created one. He translated the various sounds into symbols, which enabled him and his brother to then write down the sacred texts. In addition to their translations, they began to teach the people and future Slavic clerics how to read their new written language. Eventually, the new alphabet developed into what is now known as the Cyrillic alphabet and is the basis of many Eastern European and Asian languages used by more than 250 million people today.

Despite the fact that the Slavic people were overjoyed to hear the Gospel and pray the liturgy in their native language, many of the Germanic clergy took issue with this approach. To solve this problem, the brothers traveled to Rome where they received the approval of Pope Adrian II, who ordained them bishops and sent them back to Great Moravia. Before leaving Rome, however, Constantine fell sick. Before dying, he fully consecrated himself to God as a monk in one of the Greek monasteries, taking the monastic name Cyril. His brother Methodius then returned to Great Moravia to continue his work.

Bishop Methodius spent the next fourteen years evangelizing the people in their native language, forming clergy, and effectively administering the Church. He continued to endure harsh treatment from the Germanic clergy, even being imprisoned by them for a time, but he pressed on, extending his missionary work even beyond the borders of Great Moravia.

It wasn't until a millennia later that these brothers received the universal honor they deserved when the Western Church added them to its liturgical calendar. A century after that, Pope Saint John Paul II, a Slav himself, honored these two brothers with the title of co-patrons of Europe and Apostles to the Slavs.

These great brothers teach us that the Gospel must be personal and understood through the prism of our own language, culture, and human experience. They also teach us that we must work to share the Gospel with others in ways that they understand and to which they can relate. As we honor these great missionaries, ponder the ways that God wants to use you to reach out to others with His saving message. Though you might not be called to invent a new alphabet to do so, you will be called to step out of your comfort zone. Be courageous, creative, and zealous in this effort in imitation of these Apostles to the Slavs.

Saints Cyril and Methodius, you both gave your lives to the service of God. You served with zeal, creativity, and much determination. Please pray for me, that God may use me to become an instrument of His saving grace to those in need, bringing the Good News in ways to which they can relate. Saints Cyril and Methodius, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

Source: mycatholic.life

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 18/2/23 to 19/2/23 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A					
	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am		
Acolyte		Lorraine D			
Reader1	Miriam B	Ann L	Martina J		
Reader2	Maria G	Judy H	Mirko J		
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Kath M	Adam J		
τν		Mary A	Tyrone E		
Music		Karina S	Mark Q		
Music		Noelle T	Theresa N		
Music					
Music					
Morning Tea		Sophie R			
	Mona M				



Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it! If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish.

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:

Website:

Eachack

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	Facebook:	k: stbenedictsarcadia		
Parish Office: Email:	02 9653 2312 arcadia.parish@bigpond.com	MONASTERY:	9653 1159	Like us on Facebook	
Parish Administrator: 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:	2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159	and Safeguardi	I parish Occupational Health & Safety afeguarding Children matters Contact: ine Dailey on 0416 081 882.		