

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday 10:30am



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

13 & 14 MAY 2023

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

**(Not adoration available this Saturday
20th May)**

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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
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: LOVING JESUS



Sunday's Gospel, John 14:15-21

Jesus says "Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him."

- **Do I try to accept Jesus' commandments?**
- **In what way did I or did I not love today?**
- **Do I know that my vision will be clear into the truth if I only believe?**
- **Do I have true love for God that I may show obedience to Him?**
- **Am I trying to love Jesus by following Him so I may be loved by His Father?**
- **Do I believe the Holy Spirit is within me showing me the right way to live a life of true happiness?**

PRAYER:

Lord, help me to accept your commandments by loving others and following You. Help me feel the Holy Spirit within me to show me pure love and Spiritual joy always. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave your orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

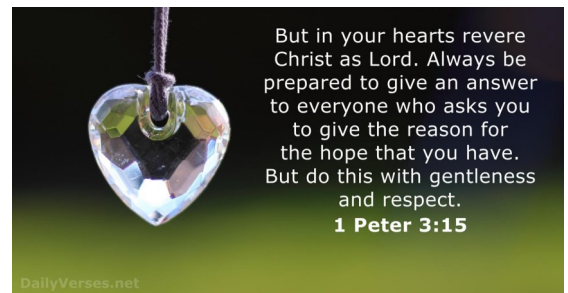
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, May 14
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21



They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17)

Philip was having great success in Samaria. As the result of his preaching and ministry, many Samaritans came to believe in the Lord. Not only that, but unclean spirits were being routed, and people were being healed of all kinds of afflictions. Crowds of people were being baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection and were experiencing the joy of their redemption.

So why did the apostles in Jerusalem even bother to send Peter and John to Samaria? What more could the people possibly need?

The Holy Spirit, that's what! Just as he had made all the difference for the apostles on the day of Pentecost, so did he make all the difference for the people of Samaria—and for us.

What is that difference? Here are some examples.

It is clearly amazing to witness a miraculous healing as the Samaritans did—or even to receive one yourself as some of the Samaritans did. But when the Spirit comes to dwell in you, he can bring healing to your wounded memories and free you from lifelong patterns of sin and guilt and shame.

It's a good thing to be able to memorize prayers or passages from Scripture. But it's even more wonderful to have the Spirit alive in you, breathing new life and joy into your heart through these prayers and passages and giving you new insights into his love.

It's one thing to muster what strength you have to fight sin, but it's another thing altogether to experience the indwelling Spirit giving you his own grace to say no to temptation and keeping your faith alive in times of difficulty.

The truth is, we *need* the Holy Spirit to renew our minds, to fill our hearts, and to keep us connected to Jesus.

Pentecost is just two weeks away. What do you need the Holy Spirit to do in you?

“Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful. Come, fill my heart!”

Source: Word Among Us India Apr-May23 pg.44

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

May

Monday 15 Readings: Acts 16:11-15. Jn 15:26-16:4.
R: The Lord takes delight in his people.

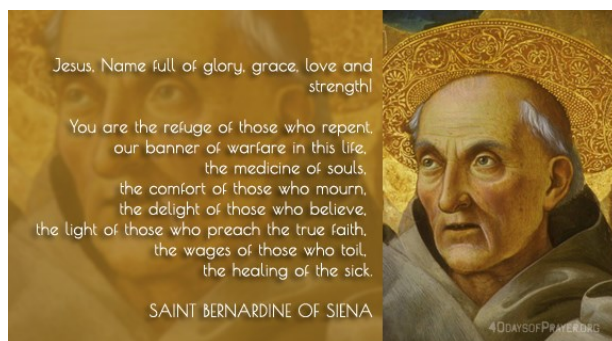
Tuesday 16 Readings: Acts 16:22-34. Jn 16:5-11.
R: Your right hand has saved me, O Lord.

Wednesday 17 Readings: Acts 17:15, 22 -18:1. Jn 16:12-15.
R: Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Thursday 18 Readings: Acts 18:1-8. Jn 16:16-20.
R: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.
St John I, pope, martyr.

Friday 19 Readings: Acts 18:9-18. Jn 16:20-23.
R: God is king of all the earth.

Saturday 20 Readings: Acts 18:23-28. Jn 16:23-28.
R: God is king of all the earth..
St Bernardine of Siena, priest.



Source: Ordo 2023

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2023

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. Amen.



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

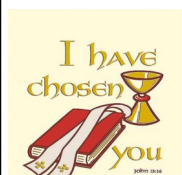
Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:

CBA—Catholic Development Fund

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

FATHER BERNARD MCGRATH

10th May 1975 - 48 years



Father Bernard, congratulations and best wishes on your Anniversary of Priesthood.

God bless you and may He keep you safe in the palm of His hand.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

TO THE MUMS WHO ARE

To the Mums who are struggling, to those filled with incandescent joy.

To the Mums who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.

To the Mums who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Mums who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.

To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.

To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.

To those remembering Mums no longer with us.

To those moving forward from Mums who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.

Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

- Hannah Kardon

ST BENEDICT'S MEN'S MEET & GREET

The next Men's meet and Greet is this Monday the 15th of May 2023, 7.30am to 8.30am.

Please join us for an hour for men of different ages for an informal opportunity to get together, communicate and share thoughts of current views in a relaxed environment, free of judgement, supporting connection and meeting other like-minded men from our community.

Contact Mirko for more information on 0409 678 780.

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.



ROSARY AFTER MASS

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

The Rosary will be recited after the morning weekday Masses for the month of May. Please join us and pray for your loved ones, your community and for the needs of the world.

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), Tony Takchi, Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum) and Jenny Taylor.

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



IGNITE CONFERENCE 2023

As announced towards the end of last year, the 2023 Ignite Sydney Conference will be hosted by the Diocese of Broken Bay, between 28 Sept – 1 October in the Cathedral Precinct.

Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of formation, renewal of faith, and powerful worship. It is a conference for all; kids, high school students, and young adults, and deeper sessions for adults, specifically parishioners, priests, religious, ministry leaders, parents, and grandparents. There is something for everyone at the Ignite Conference. A conference for everyone, from leaders to first-time believers. This is the Church gathered and alive on mission. This is God's people united with one heart.

Ignite Conference is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship.

Join over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious taking part in a life changing encounter with God and His Church.

Registrations for this significant gathering are now open. Click here <https://igniteconference.com.au/> to learn more about the conference and how to register.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION INTRODUCTION AND RENEWAL DAY

Invitation to St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia on Ascension Day, Sunday, 21st May for a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day.

Arrival and registration from 10am for 10:30am start, presentations, introduction to meditation, periods of meditation, Mass, information sharing, conclusion around 3pm.

Book display and morning tea provided, BYO picnic lunch. Masks are optional, recommended social distancing and vaccination for one's own personal protection.

Enquiries: Ann Bergman –
anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas –
atlomas@bigpond.com / 9653 2637

Possible accommodation at the monastery guest house Enquiries : Fr Michael Kelly – 0455 329 607

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

I would like to reflect on Pope Francis' Apostolic letter May 2021 on "Instituting the Ministry of Catechist" this week and over the coming weeks.

"The ministry of Catechist in the Church is an ancient one. Theologians commonly hold that the first examples are already present in the writings of the New Testament. The service of catechesis may be traced back to those "teachers" mentioned by the Apostle in writing to the community of Corinth: "Some people God has designated in the Church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way" (1 Cor 12:28-31)."

Free training available for all Catechists (to register email registrations@bbcatholic.org.au) –

- Level 1 Training – there will be a break in the sessions this week with the third session on 'Listening and Questioning' on Tuesday 23 May 6:30pm - 8:30pm and Monday 22 May 10am – 12:30pm. The following session is "Music, Stories and Drama in the Classroom"
- Safeguarding Children training for all Catechists Thursday 15th June 9.30am – 12.30pm in 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 srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Coordinator



PARISH NOTICE ADORATION

There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament next weekend on **Saturday the 20th of May** as Fr Shansana will not be available. Our apologies.

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

A big thank you to Robin, Rosie and Lila who have put beautiful prizes together donating them for Mother's Day and have asked that no money is given for the tickets as a gift back to the Church. Thank you ladies! What a blessing you are to our community!

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.
Everyone welcome.
For more details call Angela Egiziano.



Happy Mother's day to all our mums, both here on earth or up in heaven!

When God Created Mothers

When the good Lord was creating mothers He was into His sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you the specification on this order? She has to be completely washable but not the plastic... have 180 movable parts, all replaceable... run on black coffee and leftovers... have a lap that disappears when she stands up... a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to disappointed love affairs and six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "six pairs of hands? No way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. The Lord nodded, "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are the children doing in there?' when she already knows."

"Another in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know. And of course, the one in front that can look at a child when he gets himself into trouble and say 'I understand and love you' without so much as muttering a word." "Lord," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "go to bed, tomorrow is another..."

"I can't," said the Lord, "I'm so close now. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on one pound of mince and can get a nine year old to have a bath."

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed. "But tough," said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?" "Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Lord.

Finally the angel bent over and ran her fingers across the cheek. "There's a leak," said the angel. "It's a tear." "What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointments, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel. The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there."

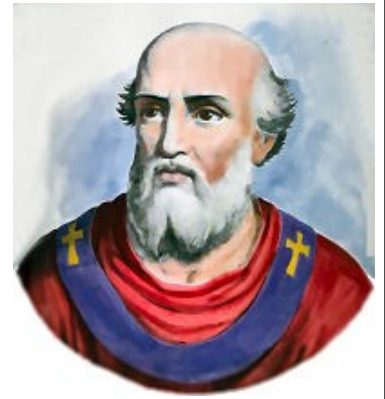
From an English edition
of the Mother's Union Magazine
of the Church of England.



Saint John I, Pope and Martyr

Feast Day May 18

C. Late Fifth Century-526



In 451, the Council of Chalcedon taught that Jesus had both a human and divine nature, and those two natures were united in the one Person of Jesus Christ. This doctrine was established in response to the Arian heresy plaguing the Eastern Roman Empire, which taught that Jesus was created by the Father and, therefore, neither co-equal with Him nor divine. After Chalcedon countered this heresy, the Arian clergy and even the Byzantine emperor tried to move closer to acceptance, but many of them didn't go all the way. Instead, many former Arians fell into other middle-of-the-road heresies that failed to fully accept the two natures of the Son of God. In 482, Byzantine Emperor Zeno issued a document called the *Henotikon*. This document attempted to find a middle ground between the official Church teaching on the nature of Christ as defined in the Council of Chalcedon, and the Arian view. Emperor Zeno's successor, Basiliscus, continued in this error of faith.

In 518, Justin I succeeded Emperor Basiliscus as the Eastern Roman Emperor. Shortly afterward, he accepted the position of the pope and the Council of Chalcedon. In 523, Emperor Justin issued an edict mandating the acceptance of the Council of Chalcedon throughout the Eastern Empire, and demanding that all Arians turn their churches over to Catholics. At that time in the West, Rome was under the control of Theodoric the Great, the king of the Ostrogoths. Theodoric was an Arian, which gave rise to ongoing tensions between him and the pope, as well as all orthodox Catholics. Though Theodoric was mostly accommodating of Chalcedon Christians (including the pope), when the Eastern Roman Emperor Justin I issued his edict in 523 against the Arians, Theodoric was outraged. He threatened that if the edict were not rescinded, he would treat all Chalcedon Catholics in the West in the same way that Arians were being treated in the East, even promising bloodshed.

In that same year, a deacon in Rome, Archdeacon John, was elevated to the papacy, becoming Pope John. Shortly after that, the outraged King Theodoric forced Pope John to travel to Constantinople in an effort to convince Emperor Justin to rescind his edict. Pope John reluctantly went, accompanied by a number of bishops and Roman senators. When Pope John arrived in Constantinople, Emperor Justin warmly welcomed him and the two were clearly of the same mind. It is said that the emperor traveled twelve miles outside of the city gate to meet the pope and when they met, the emperor bowed to the ground in homage. On their way into the city, the pope is said to have cured a blind man. Regarding the matter at hand, Pope John might have encouraged the emperor to treat the Arians gently, but in no way did he carry out King Theodoric's demand to convince the emperor to rescind his edict. Pope John was unwaveringly Catholic and fully accepted the teachings of the Council of Chalcedon.

When word reached King Theodoric that Pope John did not carry out his order, the king was outraged. First, he imprisoned and later executed one of Pope John's closest friends, the philosopher Boëtius. Then, when Pope John returned to Italy, King Theodoric immediately had him, the other bishops, and senators arrested and jailed in Ravenna, not permitting Pope John to return to Rome. Since Pope John was already quite frail and in ill-health, he did not survive long in the dungeon. Though he was not directly executed by the king, the Church has nonetheless named Pope Saint John I as a martyr for the faith.

If Pope John would have compromised on the faith of the Church, the king would have been grateful and treated him well. But the pope had a duty to proclaim the one true faith, without regard for his own physical well-being. This is what Pope John did, and that is why he is now a saint in the courts of Heaven.

As we honor this holy martyr, consider any ways that you are tempted to compromise your own faith for the sake of "peace at all costs." The secular world often tempts us to downplay our faith, especially our moral convictions, for the sake of a false unity. There are many objective evils today that are being promoted by the secular world as good: abortion, confusion about sexual identity, materialism, and atheistic socialism to name a few. Allow Pope Saint John I to inspire you so that you will have courage in the face of such temptations. Commit yourself to the truth so that you will be a purer instrument of the saving truths that will lead those most in need to eternal salvation.

Pope Saint John, you chose to value the truth of the Catholic faith over your own life. You remained steadfast in the proclamation of the Gospel until the end. Please pray for me, that I will never waver in my faith, and will never give in to temptations to water down that faith. May I have the same courage that you had so that God will be able to use me to reach out to those who need to know His saving truths. Saint John I, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

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

20/5/2023 & 21/5/2023

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	Jerry L
Reader1	Margaret B	Peter G	Mirko J
Reader2	Kathryn S	Roza N	Adam J
Prayers	Mary C	Melanie H	Eva F
TV		Nigel M	Leon J
Music		Mark Q	Mark Q
Music		Teresa G	Adam F
Music		Marisa Q	Theresa N
Music		Keith W	
Morning Tea		Lila B	
 FLOWERS	Gabrielle W		

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.