

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

4 & 5 MAY 2024

**LOVE  
ONE  
ANOTHER**  
JOHN 15:9-17

### PARISH MASS TIMES

#### Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday 10:30am



#### Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

**(THIS THURSDAY 9TH MAY AT 9AM)**

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration

7:00pm Mass & Confession

(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

### MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

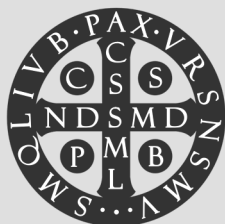
Sundays 7:00am

Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

**BAPTISMS  
RECONCILIATION  
FOR THE SICK  
MARRIAGES  
FUNERALS**

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233



### 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: LOVE & JOY

Sundays' Gospel, John 15:9-17, Jesus said "This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you."

When you really love someone you want them to be filled with joy. Joy is the essence of love. To love something is to enjoy it, to delight in it. As Christ remains in us and we receive His love we experience great joy as we delight in Him and His love for us. We lose that joy when we lose sight of Jesus.



*Do I love others as Jesus loves me?*

*Am I willing to lay down my life for my friends by giving my time and energy?*

*Do I experience great joy knowing Jesus loves me?*

**Lord,**  
**Help me love others as You love me. Teach me that it is okay to lay down my life for my friends by giving my time and energy. Help me to always have spiritual joy knowing You are abiding in me as I abide in You. Amen.**

**First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 (JB)**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up', he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

**Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10 (6 EASTER B) (JB)**

A reading from the first letter of St John

*God is love.*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**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, alleluia!**

**GOSPEL: John 15:9-17 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

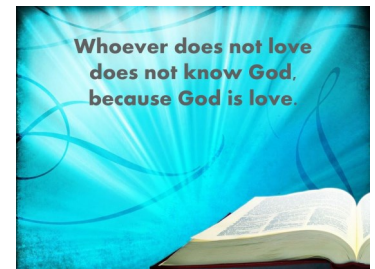
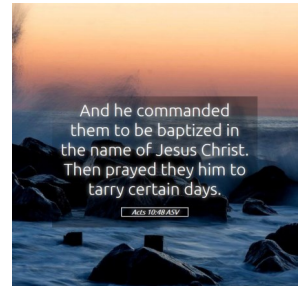
You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, May 5  
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Psalm 98:1-4  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17

*God is love. (1 John 4:8)*

A statement like “God is love” can sound so abstract! But in today’s second reading, John follows up this revelation with a second one: God’s love is revealed to us in Jesus, who offered himself on the cross “so that we might have life through him” (1 John 4:8, 9). And as Jesus tells us in today’s Gospel, we, too, are called to lay down our lives for one another out of love (John 15:13).

But unlike Jesus, we usually aren’t called to literally die for someone. So what does it actually look like to lay down our lives for another person?

Today’s first reading from Acts gives us a model. A Roman centurion named Cornelius invites Peter to come to his home in Caesarea, about a thirty-five-mile walk. Peter knows it is “unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with, or visit, a Gentile,” yet he goes anyway (Acts 10:28). When he begins preaching the good news to them, the Holy Spirit falls on Cornelius and the rest of the people gathered there, and they are “baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (10:48).

Peter was doing what Jesus had commanded when he said, “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). He was laying down his life for these former enemies by listening to the Spirit’s leading, taking the time to journey to Caesarea, entering the centurion’s house, and then going out on a limb to baptize Gentiles.

Each day we are presented with opportunities to lay down our lives for one another out of love. It might cost us our time or our energy. It might require courage, patience, or forbearance. We might have to step out in faith. But as we do these things—even those that seem routine or mundane—we are making the abstract truth that “God is love” into a living reality. We are revealing God’s love to the world.

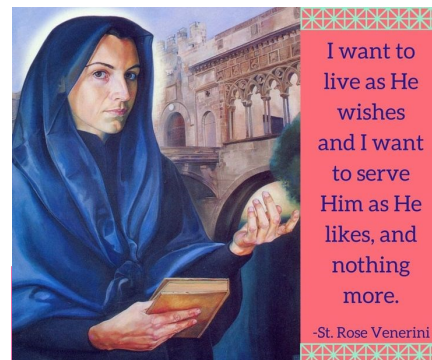
**“Holy Spirit, open my eyes to those times today when I can love someone as you have loved me.”**

Source: Word Among Us India

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

### MAY

- Monday 6 Readings: Acts 16:11-15. Jn 15:26-16:4.  
**R:** The Lord takes delight in his people.
- Tuesday 7 Readings: Acts 16:22-34. Jn 16:5-11.  
**R:** Your right hand has saved me, O Lord.
- Wednesday 8 Readings: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1. Jn 16:12-15.  
**R:** Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
- Thursday 9 Readings: Acts 18:1-8. Jn 16:16-20.  
**R:** The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.
- Friday 10 Readings: Acts 18:9-18. Jn 16:20-23.  
**R:** God is king of all the earth.  
**St John de Avila, priest, doctor**
- Saturday 11 Readings: Acts 18:23-28. Jn 16:23-28.  
**R:** God is king of all the earth.



**St Rosa Venerini**

**Feast day: May 7th**

Source: Ordo 2024



## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2024

### For the Formation of Religious and Seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

## NOTICE

**THURSDAY MAY 9TH MORNING MASS WILL BE HELD AT 9AM DUE TO THE FUNERAL AT 10AM.**

## MORNING TEA

We need volunteer helpers for Morning tea to be added to the roster after the 9am Mass.

PLEASE IF YOU CAN HELP CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ON: 9653 2312

or email: [arcadia.parish@bigpond.com](mailto:arcadia.parish@bigpond.com)

## HELP ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

### IF YOU ARE SELLING YOUR PROPERTY

We are pleased to inform you, that local real estate agent, Gavan Kohen, sales director at Ray White Dural and proud member of the St Benedict's Parish Church has generously offered the following:

Any property sales that Gavan is given by St Benedict's parish member, 20% of the sale fee will be donated directly to St Benedict's Parish, Arcadia.

For any real estate enquiries, please contact Gavan Kohen on 0414 911 070.



## PASTORAL WORKS

*The Diocese of Broken Bay Pastoral Works (PWBB) May 2024 Appeal will be running this month of May across our Diocese and in our Parish. Our catechists and hospital chaplains need your help.*

*Giving generously to the Pastoral Works Broken Bay Appeal during May or beyond gives you the power to connect to the Mission of Jesus Christ and add to the happiness of someone else within our Diocese.*

*Envelopes are provided in the pews.*

*Gifts are all tax deductible.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## ORBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:

**HELEN FACIONE**  
**29/4/2024**



*Service to commence at  
10am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024  
St Benedict's Parish.*

*Followed by her Burial at  
Castlebrook Memorial Gardens at 1pm  
712-746 Windsor Rd Rouse Hill*

*Celebration - (WAKE) at Enzo's Cucina Dural  
Unit 2 286-288 New Line Rd Dural  
from 12:30 ( for those who would like to go directly  
to Enzo's)*

*Eternal Rest grant to her O Lord,  
And let the Perpetual light shine upon her,  
May she Rest in Peace.  
Amen*

***Our prayers and thoughts are with  
Helen's family and friends.***

***Helen, we will truly miss you in our parish.  
Rest in Peace dear friend.***

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA MEETING

Tuesday 7th May at 7:00pm  
In the Parish Meeting Room  
All Committee Members requested to attend.  
Guests are welcome.  
Thank you.

## PARISH FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday 8th May at 7:15pm  
In the Parish Meeting Room  
All Committee Members requested to attend.

## 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 Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.**

**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died especially our dear Helen Facione, *May they rest in Peace.***



## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

**THANK YOU! JUDY HORTON**

Thank you for all your work taking photos and adding a wonderful article about the fete into the Community News! God bless you in all you do for our parish!

## ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!



We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-12yr olds** will be held **every Friday during school term only**.

START DATE: Friday 3rd of May 2024

TIME: 4pm to 5.30pm

To register your child please email the parish office: [arcadia.pariah@bigpond.com](mailto:arcadia.pariah@bigpond.com) with your child's name, age and parent's phone number.

**Volunteers aged 14-16yrs** who would like to assist us please email the parish office. Our youth leaders all have Working With Children Checks.

## CRAFT GROUP



The quilting group will meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room. Everyone welcome!

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.  
Everyone welcome.

For more details call  
Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.



## CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every  
**Wednesday morning**: after 9.30am Mass.  
Everyone welcome.

**Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!**  
For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Term 2 commenced this week. I hope all had an enjoyable holiday break!

Welcome and thanks to Mona Makaj and Courtney Sakkal for joining in our ministry of being a Catechist! Mona is now teaching Kindergarten at Arcadia PS and Courtney is assisting at Glenorie PS.

Free training available to Catechists with full Authorisation – Level 1 Training commences with "Prayer in the Classroom" on Monday 13th May 10-12:15pm via Zoom.

RSVP [registrations@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:registrations@bbcatholic.org.au)

The CCD has also organised a Reflection Day on the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday 21 June 9:45am – 2:30pm at Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood. All are invited. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. RSVP [registrations@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:registrations@bbcatholic.org.au)

God bless,  
Miriam Brown

[srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)

Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator



## MAKER'S TABLE

Please join us the first Wednesday of the month  
7.30pm to 9.30pm.



*At The Maker's Table there is a special place prepared for you.  
Our Lord, our Maker,  
is already there.*

Craft activities taught by skilled ladies of the parish, i.e. painting, beading, candle making, knitting, flower arranging, peg dolls, etc.

Materials included in the cost of \$20 per person booking essential so we can have a special place for you at the Table. Supper, tea, coffee provided, bring a plate if you wish.

Come enjoy meeting new people.

For more information and to book, call Martine on  
0458 533 250

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION INTRODUCTION & RENEWAL

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia on Sunday, 19th May.

Arrival from 10am to register for a 10:30am start, presentations, introduction to meditation, Middle of the Day Prayer with the monks, Mass at 2pm, conclusion around 3pm. Book display and morning tea provided, please BYO picnic lunch.

General enquiries: Ann Lomas-  
[atomas@bigpond.com](mailto:atomas@bigpond.com) / 0437 340 250  
Peace, Fr Michael Kelly.

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

***Saint John of Avila, Priest & Doctor of the Church***

***Feast Day: May 10***

***C. 1499-1569***



**Patron Saint of Spanish priests**

John of Ávila was born on the Feast of the Epiphany in Almodóvar del Campo, Spain, less than a decade after Spain was liberated from almost 800 years of Muslim rule. His parents, who had struggled to conceive, attributed John's birth to the intercession of Saint Bridget of Sweden.

At age fourteen, John left to study law at the University of Salamanca, but after four years, he had a profound conversion experience and returned to his parents' home for three years of prayer and discernment. Obeying a call to the priesthood, John began his theological studies in 1520. John was smart, a good student, and devoted to the Holy Eucharist. When he returned home in 1526, he was ordained a priest and celebrated his first Mass in his home parish. John received a large inheritance when both of his parents died. Finding twelve poor people in the streets, he invited them to share a feast with him before selling the property he inherited and giving his money to the poor.

Father John's desire to be a missionary in the New World was waylaid when his devout celebration of the Mass, preaching, and catechetical approach drew admiration in Seville. The Archbishop of Seville convinced Father John to remain in Spain to help revive the faith severely damaged by centuries of Muslim rule and the confusion that was emerging from the Protestant Reformation.

At the age of thirty, Father John of Ávila began his ministry in the town of Andalusia. He often preached on repentance and the value of Confession, preparing for his sermons and celebration of Mass with long periods of prayer. After sermons to an overflowing congregation, he would enter the confessional, remaining there for hours until all who wanted to confess their sins could do so.

Living a life of radical poverty, Father John preached about the dangers of excessive wealth. Some local clergy, comfortable in their lavish lifestyles, reported Father John to the Inquisition. Arrested and imprisoned for a year, he translated the book, *Imitation of Christ*, and wrote much of his famous book *Audi, filia* (Listen, O Daughter), a spiritual masterpiece on Christian perfection and the universal call to holiness. The Inquisition found him not guilty, and he was released in 1533. For the next eighteen years, Father John engaged in active ministry in Andalusia and the surrounding towns. After experiencing ill health in 1551, he lived in semi-retirement until his death in 1569.

Throughout his ministry, Father John became a saint among other saints. He mentored Saint Ignatius of Loyola and inspired many young men to join Ignatius' newly founded Society of Jesus. He advised the great Saint Teresa of Ávila on her writings. Saint John of God was converted by John of Ávila's preaching and then founded the Brothers Hospitallers, a religious congregation devoted to the poor, sick, and mentally ill. Father John also left behind his spiritual classic *Audi, filia*, eighty-two sermons, Scripture commentaries, 257 letters, and various other minor works on reform in the Church in the spirit of the great Council of Trent in which he participated.

*Saint John of Ávila, God used you to transform southern Spain during a most difficult time in the history of the Church. You prayed and devoted yourself to God's mission that bore much good fruit as a result. Please pray that I will see those around me as my mission field and will work tirelessly to set a holy example and guide them by the words you inspire me to share. Saint John of Ávila, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## THE NEED TO CARE FOR WOMEN

The surge in domestic violence cases sparked rallies around Australia at the weekend with people protesting the appalling number of deaths.

Twenty-eight women have been killed by their partners or former partners so far in 2024 and Australians have rightly said "enough is enough".

May 1 is the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, a man who epitomised the best of what men can be. When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he could have walked away or become angry knowing he was not the biological father, but he did not.

He stayed true to Mary and raised Jesus as his one and only son. Joseph the carpenter, devoted husband to Mary and loving father to Jesus is a fine example of how men should live their lives, providing love and support to their families.

It is important to note that while domestic violence mainly affects women, men can also be victims.

Victoria police say they arrest around 80 men a day over family violence that include homicides, assaults, stalking and property damage, and have responded to 94,000 incidents in the past 12 months. The situation is frighteningly similar in other states and territories.

There is no easy answer to ending domestic violence but it's up to all of us to call it out wherever we witness it or hear of it. Staying silent is not the answer.

No one should put up with any form of abuse, whether it be emotional or physical. Some organisations that can assist people in abusive relationships include:

[Full Stop Australia](#): 1800 385 578  
[1800 Respect National Helpline](#): 1800 737 732  
[DV Connect Women's Line](#): 1800 811 811  
[MensLine](#): 1300 789 978

Source: majellan.media

## PASTORAL WORKS

*The Diocese of Broken Bay Pastoral Works (PWBB) May 2024 Appeal will be running this month of May across our Diocese and in our Parish. Our catechists and hospital chaplains need your help. Giving generously to the Pastoral Works Broken Bay Appeal during May or beyond gives you the power to connect to the Mission of Jesus Christ and add to the happiness of someone else within our Diocese.*

*Please tag your family and friends so they can also support our Appeal. Your generosity is much appreciated.*

**“Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!”**  
**MAY APPEAL**

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care

Every gift makes a difference. **THANK YOU!**

Please give generously to our **MAY 2024 APPEAL**

**PASTORAL WORKS**  
Broken Bay

Hashtags:

#catholicinspiration  
#catholiclife  
#catholicfamily  
#catholicconnect  
#sydneycatholic  
#catholic  
#community  
#catholiccommunity  
#brokenbaydiocese  
#catholicparishes  
#pastoralworksbrokenbay  
#pwbb  
#ccd  
#confraternityofchristiandocctrine  
#hospitalchaplaincy  
#pastoralcare  
#studentswithdisabilities  
#disabilitysupport

# Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

11/5/2024 TO 12/5/2024  
ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR B

	Saturday 7.00pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Miriam B	Matt W	Peter B
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Eva F
Prayers	Margaret B	Gabrielle W	Lorna B
TV		Sebastian W	Xavier F
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Marisa Q	Adam F
Music		Theresa N	Martina J
Music		Nigel M	
Morning Tea		Tania T	
 FLOWERS	Angela S		



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

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing

FATHER BERNARD

a very happy birthday!

MAY 10



Sending heartfelt birthday wishes to our dear Fr Bernard

Wishing you a blessed birthday!

## PASTORAL WORKS

Our Diocese provides an annual sum for Pastoral Works, which our parish is expected to contribute towards through our envelope collections. In cases where the collected amount falls short of the target, we are asked to transfer the difference to the Diocese.

Our annual amount for the financial year 2023/2024 is:

**\$13,052.00**

We have kindly received envelopes from parishioners so far for the amount of:

\$1,189.90

The balance we have left to pay by 30 June 2024 is:

**\$11,862.10**

Envelopes are available in the pews, offering the opportunity for tax-deductible donations.

## 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@bbcatholic.org.au

**Parish Priest:** 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](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)

**Facebook:** [stbenedictsarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/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.**