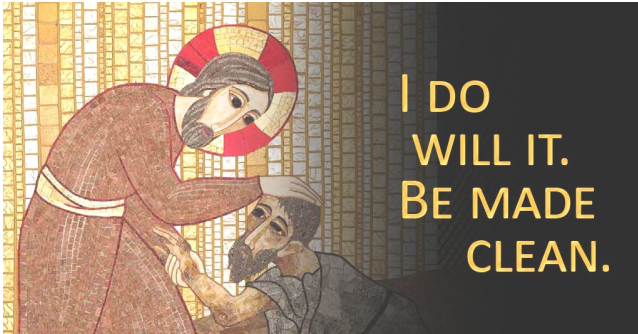


# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

10 & 11 FEBRUARY 2024



### PARISH MASS TIMES 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 10:00am to 11:00am  
Adoration & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

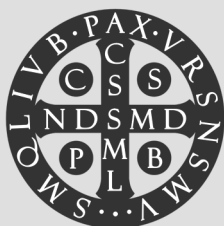
### MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

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

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.**

### SELF REFLECTION: BELIEF

This Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45, "A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured"

*This is a story of healing and touching. Strictly speaking, Jesus should not have touched a leper. Neither should the leper have approached Jesus, as lepers had to isolate themselves and call out 'unclean, unclean' to anyone who approached.*

*Desire is important in life as it gives direction and momentum. The leper knew what he wanted and believed that Jesus had the power to grant it. He came in humility, begging from a kneeling position. Jesus met him with a compassionate response.*

*Lord, help us to see how we isolate ourselves and others and how to break down barriers of stigma, shame and fear, and reach out in love to others, just as you did.*

*Lord, we come to you in our need, with our desire, and with total confidence in you to meet our needs and to heal our wounds. Amen.*

**BELIEF**

Source: sacredspace.ie

**First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 (JB)**

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

AS LONG AS HE HAS THE  
INFECTION, HE REMAINS  
UNCLEAN. HE MUST LIVE  
ALONE IN A PLACE  
OUTSIDE THE CAMP.  
- LEVITICUS 13:46

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 (JB)**

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

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:40-45 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2024

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, February 11

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

*A leper came to Jesus. (Mark 1:40)*

Jesus' disciples must have recoiled when they saw the man approaching. Everyone feared the dreaded disease that he was obviously suffering from. Sure, showing signs of leprosy would make someone ritually unclean (Leviticus 13:46). But it was also deadly and thought to be very contagious. That's why the Book of Leviticus had so many regulations to keep those suffering from leprosy isolated from society. No one wanted to risk contracting the disease!

So why did Jesus reach out to touch this man? Why didn't he shrink back or turn aside? Because he was not afraid of the disease or the uncleanness. He could not be harmed or made unclean by any infirmity. Quite the opposite: Jesus had come to *heal* and *restore* all people. He could see beyond the disease and reach out to cleanse this beloved child of God. And by healing him, Jesus brought the man back into society.

Jesus isn't afraid to reach out to us, either. While we might not be afflicted with leprosy, there *is* something that can cut us off from God and isolate us from other people: our sin. But on the cross, Jesus took on himself our sins and those of the whole world. By his resurrection, he destroyed the power of sin and death. Sin has no hold on him, and he does not fear it. Each time we come to him in repentance, seeking healing and restoration, he replies to us as he did to the man with leprosy: "I do will it. Be made clean" (Mark 1:41).

So come to Jesus with your sins. Bring to him your isolation and suffering. He won't pull away from you. He is the pure One who removes all your impurity. He is the holy One who takes on your sin and strips it of its power over you. Like the man suffering from leprosy, don't be afraid to approach Jesus. Let him bring you restoration and healing!

***"Jesus, in my weakness and need, I come to you! Cleanse me and make me whole."***

Source: Word Among Us India

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

### FEBRUARY

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Monday 12    | Readings: James 1:1-11. Mk 8:11-13.<br><b>R:</b> Be kind to me, Lord, and I shall live.  |
| Tuesday 13   | Readings: James 1:12-18. Mk 8:14-21.<br><b>R:</b> Happy are those you teach, O Lord.   |
| Wednesday 14 | Readings: Joel 2:12-18. 2 Cor 5:20-6:2. Mt 6:1-6, 16-18.<br><b>R:</b> Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.<br><b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> |
| Thursday 15  | Readings: Deut 30:15-20. Lk 9:22-25.<br><b>R:</b> Happy are they who hope in the Lord.   |
| Friday 16    | Readings: Is 58:1-9. Mt 9:14-15.<br><b>R:</b> A broken humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.                                       |
| Saturday 17  | Readings: Is 58:9-14. Lk 5:27-32.<br><b>R:</b> Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may be faithful in your sight..                       |



Source: Ordo 2023

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2024



### For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.





### Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction.

Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

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

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday February 14th. Mass times as follows:

7.00am Monastery  
9.30am Parish  
7.00pm Parish



Please bring back your palm branches from last year by Sunday the 11th of February so we can use for Ash Wednesday service.

### LENTEN GROUPS

If you would like to start a Lenten Group at your place during Lent please let the parish office know so we can organise your booklets and advertise it.

### ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE



### SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 7 APRIL 10AM TO 3PM

If any local businesses or entrepreneurs would like to hold a stall please let us know.

We need **young volunteers** who can assist us in managing the popcorn machine, slushy machine and fairy floss machine.

Also we are looking for a **talented parishioner** who can do face painting and colouring-in.

If you are cleaning out your cupboards, please start putting aside donations for the fete. Only good quality items can be taken. Loose items need to be in boxes. We also need NEW gifts for chocolate wheel.

**Next fete meeting is Tuesday the 20th of February 7.15pm.**

For more information please contact Fr Shansana.

### WORKING BEE - KERBSIDE CLEAN UP



**Robin Barbara would like young strong people to help her to do a clean up from under the church. We need to throw out many things before the Fete.**

**Saturday 24th February 4pm.**

**Many hands make light work.**

### 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 Greg Lambert, Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.**

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



## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

### TANIA TASSONE



Thank you for being involved in helping and organising the fete. Also for the morning teas, the flowers and any help we ever need. You do so much for us it is greatly appreciated.

God bless you in all you do for our parish.

*Who would you like to nominate for next week? Please let us know so we can acknowledge their kindness.*

## GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (GCEA)

Just a quick reminder that the next GCEA committee meeting is on the 12<sup>th</sup> February at St Jude's (Dural Anglican) 7.30pm.

Can I encourage each Church involved with the GCEA to have at least 1 or 2 representatives attend.

We would love to see you.

On behalf of the GCEA Executive,

Jenn Thorp  
GCEA Secretary  
0405 270 688

## ST VINNIES

The Arcadia Conference of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone in the parish for the wonderful support of our Christmas Appeal. We collected an amazing array of foodstuffs and toiletries from which we were able to pack 7 Hampers for our clients. We also received cash donations totalling just over \$2,000. We are so very appreciative of your generosity, especially in these difficult economic times.

You have made a big difference for our very needy clients in this area. Thank you again,

Rita, Lila, Marie and Karen

## CRAFT GROUP

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



## 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

Thanks to those who were able to attend this week's Catechist meeting. All schools return to class next week. We are all excited to go back into the classrooms and meet our students!

A big thanks to **Lisa Welsman, Virginia Tanna and Martine Musumeci** for offering to cover the class vacancies for this term at Middle Dural and Arcadia Public schools. Due to family commitments they may not be able to continue beyond this term, so we still urgently require Catechists to assist in these schools. If you are retired, semi-retired, studying or working part-time and are free on Wednesdays or Fridays in school term, please consider this rewarding ministry. You will be provided training, support, books and resources to help and you can choose to be a helper if you are uncertain.

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

God bless,

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

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

## ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-11yr olds** is in the pipeline!

Our anticipated start is April/May. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Volunteers aged 14-16yrs who would like to assist us please let Father Shansana know.

If anyone has table tennis or a basketball stand and ring that they would like to donate please notify the Parish office. We would be most grateful.

**ST BENEDICT'S  
YOUTH GROUP**

## ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION



**Father David Orr**

**13th February 1967 - 57 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.

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.  
Everyone welcome.

For more details call  
Angela Egiziano on 9653 2312.



# SAINT OF THE WEEK

## February 10: Saint Scholastica

c. 480–543

Patron Saint of nuns, school, tests, reading, convulsive children



### Quote:

*The holy nun said to her brother: "Please do not leave me tonight; let us go on until morning talking about the delights of the spiritual life." "Sister," he replied, "what are you saying? I simply cannot stay outside my cell." When she heard her brother refuse her request, the holy woman joined her hands on the table, laid her head on them and began to pray. As she raised her head from the table, there were such brilliant flashes of lightning, such great peals of thunder and such a heavy downpour of rain that neither Benedict nor his brethren could stir across the threshold of the place where they had been seated. ~Dialogues, Saint Gregory the Great*

**Reflection:** Little is known about the life of Saint Scholastica, yet her influence upon the Church is undeniable. She was born into a wealthy family around the year 480 AD, in the town of Nursia, central Italy, shortly after the fall of the Western Roman emperor. It was a chaotic time, politically speaking, but also a time when God began to manifest His divine stability through her. She had one brother, most likely a twin, by the name of Benedict. Benedict and Scholastica are now honored as great saints. Both had a powerful influence upon monastic life as we have it today, Benedict being the father of Western monasticism and Scholastica its mother.

As a child, Scholastica dedicated herself to the service of God, taking no interest in the things of this world. She lived modestly, despite being raised in a wealthy home. When Benedict left home to become a hermit and to eventually found a monastery with a new monastic rule, she marveled at his hidden life of prayer and work. His vocation called out to her, and she received permission from the local bishop to enter a home of virgins who chose to adopt Benedict's new monastic rule. Benedict assisted them and made Scholastica the abbess of the home.

Benedict's new form of monasticism focused on forming permanent, self-contained, and self-supporting monasteries that followed a strict regimen of prayer and work. After aspirants' callings were tested for a period of time, they made vows, permanently committing themselves to God and the community. Their lives became structured and ordered under the direction of an abbot or abbess to whom the monks and nuns vowed obedience. Soon after Benedict's humble monastery on Monte Cassino began to bloom, Scholastica received permission to adopt his rule with a group of virgins, making them the first convent of Benedictine nuns. In the centuries to follow, their way of life spread far and wide across the Western world.

In his book *Dialogues*, Pope Saint Gregory captures the holy love that Benedict and Scholastica shared. Though Scholastica's convent was only a few miles from Benedict's monastery, the two would only get together once a year, in keeping with their strict rule of life. Those meetings fanned into flames their shared love for God and the fruits of their prayer and mutual calling to this new way of life. Each year they met at a nearby house and spent the day conversing on the holiest of topics. When these twins were around the age of sixty-three, they met for what would be their final conversation on earth. They spent the day praising God and engaged in spiritual talk. After a light dinner, Benedict announced that he and his companions needed to leave and return to the monastery. Scholastica begged him to stay so that they could continue conversing about God throughout the night. Benedict responded to her, "Sister, what are you saying? I simply cannot stay outside my cell." Scholastica knew, however, that their holy conversation needed to continue, so she bowed her head in prayer, and God sent forth a lightning storm so powerful that Benedict and his brothers could not leave. Scholastica's love for Benedict and her desire to continue with the praises of God throughout the night met with God's approval and God provided the way. They parted the next day, and three days later, Benedict had a vision of his sister's soul being taken to Heaven in the form of a dove. He had his brothers bring her body to the monastery, and Scholastica was buried in the grave intended for Benedict. Four years later, Benedict died and was buried in the same grave with his sister. The two were united by grace and a shared mission in this life, and they would forever share a grave from which they will rise together on the last day.

Pope Saint Gregory opines that Scholastica's prayers were answered over Benedict's objection because her love was great. "She did more which loved more," he wrote. The witness of these siblings should especially teach us the value of holy friendships that mutually build each other up and give glory to God. We are made not only for communion with God, but for communion with one another. These saintly siblings give witness to this holy fact.

**Prayer:** *Saint Scholastica, you and your brother shared not only the same family, but you were also deeply united in a spiritual friendship centered on God. Please pray for me, that I may discover friends who assist me on my journey through this world and that I may be such a friend to others. Saint Scholastica and Saint Benedict, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*



## World Day of Prayer 2024

### Palestine



Date & Time: 1 MARCH, 10-30

Location: St Madeleine's Catholic Church  
29 Annangrove Rd, Renthurst

Contact person: Carry Anne 0438 791813

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

"The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year."

*"I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love"*  
Ephesians 4:1-3

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

## 'COME & SEE' SEMINARY OPEN DAY 2024



When: February 18, 2024

Time: 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush  
50-58 Abbotsford Road, Homebush, NSW, 2140

Register today.



SEMINARY  
OF THE  
GOOD  
SHEPHERD

Catholic Vocations Broken Bay  
Young Adult Event

## ENCOUNTER

ADORATION | FORMATION | COMMUNITY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16 | HOLY NAME PARISH 6PM

Guest Speaker: Fr Sam French

35 BILLYARD AVE  
WAHROONGA NSW 2076 | RSVP TO

P: 0418 522 449

E: vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au



## CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

The 2024 Marriage Preparation programme for couples preparing for marriage will be run on

24-25 Feb, 18-19 May, 17-18 Aug, 9-10 Nov.

Further information is provided on the website:

[Catholic Engaged Encounter - Sydney](https://www.catholic.org.au/engaged-encounter-sydney)

## SAFER INTERNET

This Safer Internet Day, discover practical tips for navigating the digital playground. Connect, Reflect, protect, and learn ways to secure devices and create a safer online conversation for your family. CSBB parents share some practical insights with what worked for their children alongside expert tips from our own Safeguarding team. Use today as an opportunity to make every day a safer day online! [bit.ly/42vNugv](https://bit.ly/42vNugv)



Become a  
Bennies Girl

OPEN DAY Sunday 3 March 10am-2pm

Bookings online [www.msb.nsw.edu.au](https://www.msb.nsw.edu.au)



Mount St Benedict  
College

449C Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills

[www.msb.nsw.edu.au](https://www.msb.nsw.edu.au)

# Parish Roster

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS**

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**17/2/2024 to 18/2/2024**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

	<b>Saturday 7.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 9.00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Paul E	
<b>Reader1</b>	Miriam B	Matt W	Teresa G
<b>Reader2</b>	Sr Carol T	Judy H	Martina J
<b>Prayers</b>	Margaret B	Lorraine D	Adam J
<b>TV</b>		Sebastian W	Leon/Mirko J
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Karina S
<b>Music</b>		Theresa N	Noelle T
<b>Music</b>		Nigel M	John T
<b>Music</b>		Marisa Q	
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Rosie S	
 <b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>NO FLOWERS DURING LENT</b>		

*Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!*

*If anyone would like to join our parish roster*

*please contact the parish office.*

*Thank You!*

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

February 11 is *World Day of the Sick*, an observation introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses.

*Lord, we remember and pray for all those who are sick in this world, we call to mind our mission as women and men who have committed our varied gifts and talents to helping our brothers and sisters who suffer all forms of illness. Let us not forget the many steps along the way to healing. Let us be gentle with ourselves when we too find that we have become ill. Amen.*

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

### JOB VACANCIES DIOCESAN OUTREACH ASSISTANTS

*Could you share the stories of suffering Christians? Are you looking for flexible part time work?*

Aid to the Church in Need is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across Sydney, Broken Bay, Perth and Maitland-Newcastle.

For more information and to view the full job ad go to  
[www.aidtochurch.org/work](http://www.aidtochurch.org/work)

Or scan QR code:



## 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](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto: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.**