St Benedict's Parish Arcadia







Weekends:

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

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

Baptisms Reconciliation For the Sick Marriages Funerals

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 Fr Eugene 0499 548 521 Parish Office 9653 2312



ENTRANCE PROCESSION

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

COLLECT

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: PEACE

This Sunday's Gospel, John 14:23-29, reminds me that loving Jesus means living by His words. I'm not alone—God is with me, and the Holy Spirit guides me. His peace calms my fears, even when life feels uncertain.

- Am I showing my love for Jesus by keeping His word?
- Do I welcome the presence of God in my daily life?
- How do I listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- Am I holding on to Jesus' peace in times of fear or trouble?
- Do I trust God's plan, even when I don't understand it?

Peace Love Trust Faith Calm

Lord, help me to love You by keeping Your word. Let Your presence dwell in me, and may Your Spirit guide and teach me each day. Fill me with Your peace, and calm my heart when I am afraid. I trust in Your plan and find hope in Your promises. Amen.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 (JB)
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading: *Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 (JB)* A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel or crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

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 14:23-29 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

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





"Not to make a feigned peace" Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4.

GOSPEL REFLECTION Sunday, May 25 Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Psalm 67:3, 5-6, 8 Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 John 14:23-29

I have told you this . . . (John 14:25)

Grief, fear, and anxiety. What a range of emotions the disciples must have felt as they listened to Jesus' final words before his arrest and crucifixion! And yet in today's Gospel, Jesus is also making a number of promises that surely sustained them in the days and years ahead. Amazingly, these same promises are also meant for us.

Whoever loves me and keeps my word, . . . we will come to him and make our dwelling with him (John 14:21). Jesus will be put to death, rise, and then ascend to heaven, but he is still present to us. When we follow him, he promises not just to accompany us but to live *in* us! He is as close to us as we are to ourselves.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, . . . will teach you everything (John 14:26). Jesus taught his followers many things that the Gospels record, but he wants to continue speaking to *our* mind and hearts. That's why he sent us the Holy Spirit. He will lead us and guide us in every situation we face.

My peace I leave with you (John 14:27). After Jesus' ascension, the disciples will face persecution and even martyrdom. But despite these trials, Jesus' peace will remain with them. They will know a wholeness and tranquility that can only come from the Lord. This is his gift to us as well.

How have you seen these promises fulfilled in your walk with the Lord? Think of all the times you have felt his presence in your heart. Recall when the Holy Spirit helped you understand more about the Lord or guided you in a specific way. Remember how God's peace descended on you in a hectic or difficult time.

God always fulfills his promises. So wherever you find yourself today, believe what Jesus has "told you" (John 14:25, 29). Then look for how he is working in your life, just as he said he would!

"Jesus, help me to trust in your promises!"

Source: WordAmongUs India

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

Monday May 26: Acts 16:11-15. Jn 15:26-16:4.

R. The Lord takes delight in his people.

St Philip Neri, priest

Tuesday May 27: Acts 16:22-34. Jn 16:5-11.

R. Your right hand has saved me, O Lord. **St Augustine of Canterbury**, bishop

Wednesday May 28: Acts 17:15,22-18:1. Jn 16:12-15.

R. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

Mary

May 31

Celebrates the visit of Mary, the Mother of God, with the child Jesus in her womb, to her cousin Elizabeth. The visit took place when Elizabeth was herself six months pregnant with Saint John the Baptist.



Mary - Mother Of Jesus

Of Jesus

Thursday May 29: Acts 18:1-8. Jn 16:16-20.

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

St Paul VI, pope

Friday May 30: Acts 18:9-18. Jn 16:20-23.

R. God is king of all the earth.

Saturday May 31: Zeph 3:14-18. Lk 1:39-56.

R. Among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Source: Ordo 2025



POPE LEO XIV 8 MAY 2025 Lord,

Bless POPE LEO XIV with wisdom, strength and humility as he leads your Church with Your guiding Spirit. May he lead with love and truth always. Amen.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - HEART & SOUL OF COMMUNITIES



Volunteers are the heart and soul of community life and play a crucial role in strengthening communities. They help bridge gaps in public services, support vulnerable populations, and build a stronger sense of unity and belonging.

This week we celebrate our volunteers through National Volunteer Week which has the theme, 'Connecting Communities'.

Whether assisting at food banks, mentoring youth, cleaning parks and beaches, or supporting local sports events, volunteers provide invaluable time and skills that often go unnoticed.

One of the most important contributions of volunteers is their ability to address community needs. In times of crisis, such as natural disasters or public health emergencies, volunteers often step in as first responders, offering immediate aid and emotional support.

By working with people from diverse backgrounds, volunteers help break down social barriers which strengthens the social fabric of communities, creating neighbourhoods where people look out for one another.

For individuals and families, volunteering also offers opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and civic engagement. People who volunteer often report feeling more fulfilled and connected to their communities, which in turn boosts mental well-being.

So, National Volunteer Week highlights the important role of volunteers in our community. We should all be proud of our volunteers.

Further details at:

www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/

Source: majellan.media

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



MATTHEW & THERESE MURPHY

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Matthew and Therese for your constant support and dedication to our parish. Your willingness to step in and help whenever needed does not go unnoticed. From the small tasks to the bigger responsibilities, your care and commitment make a real difference in the life of our parish community.

Thank you for all that you do—quietly, faithfully, and with such generous hearts.

May God continue to bless you both.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Dear God,

Thank You for the gift of children. Bless them with love, safety, and joy. Help us to protect their rights and listen to their voices. May every child grow in peace, hope, and kindness. Amen.

NEW ROSTER

The NEW roster is now ready to be picked up from Sacristy with your name on it. Please collect it ASAP.

NEXT CHILDREN'S MASS

Children's Mass - Next Sunday at 10:30 AM

All families are warmly invited to our special Children's Mass next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

The children will take part in the readings, prayers, and music.

Morning tea will follow—please join us for fellowship and a chance to connect with other families.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 Bruce Shankland, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

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

Joseph El-Chaar, His Holiness POPE FRANCIS, Marilyn Deguara (George Arcella's mother in law), Domenico Fusca, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry, Colleen Bennett & Helen Facione.~ May they rest in Peace.



PARISH NOTICES

Please note the new email address for the parish office:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Also note that Father Shansana will be away from the parish from May 9th to June 1st 2025. During his absence, Fr Eugene will be looking after the parish.

For anything urgent, please contact:

- Fr Eugene 0499 548 521
- Paula 0423 078 282

Thank you for your understanding and prayers for Father Shansana during his time away.

Broken Bay Pilgrimage of Hope

There is no more joyous time to be Catholic and what more sacred time to visit Rome with our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV than in this **Jubilee Year of Hope!** We warmly invite you to journey with our very own Fr Hien Vu for an



extraordinary, faith-filled ten day pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome. Breathe in the beauty of Assisi, walk in the footsteps of Saint Francis and Saint Clare, visit the tomb of Bl Carlos Acutis. Whilst in Rome, participate in Mass with Bishop Anthony, pay a personal tribute at the resting place of Pope Francis, walk through the Holy Doors of the Papal Basilicas, and join in the Holy

See celebrations for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life 8-9 October and Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. Registrations for this once in a lifetime trip closing soon. To join our next online information gathering, please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training being provided by the CCD -

- Ministry Induction training for new Catechists continues on Monday evening 6:15-8:30pm via Zoom. This week's topic is 'Lesson Planning – Teaching the Authorised Curriculum'.
- Training during the July school holidays for all fully authorised Catechists – the topic is 'Teaching Discipleship in the 21stCentury, Australia'. Various dates being provided, please contact me if interested.
- Skills in the Classroom training for all Catechists on Tuesday 22 July 6:15pm – 8:30pm via Zoom on 'Prayer in the Classroom'

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless.

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

PIETY SHOP NEWS

We invite you to take a moment to explore our Piety Shop, It offers a wonderful selection of items to support and enrich your spiritual life, including: Religious gifts for sacraments like Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Rosaries, prayer cards, and medals Bibles, missals, and spiritual books for adults and children.

Come and see what's new!

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP HAS RE-COMMENCED

Fridays SCHOOL TERM

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Ages: 8-12 years old



If you are aged 14-16 and would like to help out, please email the parish office.

All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks. Thank you, Gabe & Jules!

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

At our June workshop, we will be learning the beautiful craft of crocheting. We will be making small crocheted squares and Remembrance Day poppies.

All materials and refreshments will be provided.



Crochet workshop
Wednesday, 4th June 2025
7.30-9.30pm in the
Parish meeting room
\$10 per participant

themakerstablesydney@gmail.com
RSVP Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425-834-017

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm**. Everyone welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

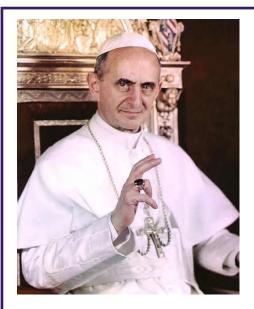
CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every
Wednesday morning:
after 9.30am Mass.
Come and meet new people and
have a cuppa!
For more details call
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Paul VI, Pope

Feast Day: May 29 c. 1897–1978

Patron Saint of Vatican Council II

Canonized by Pope Francis on October 14, 2018

Giovanni "Battista" Montini, the second of three boys, was born about fifty miles east of Milan, Italy. His father ran a Catholic newspaper and was a member of a lay organization that advocated for greater influence of the Catholic faith within society. Battista often missed long periods of school, due to a chronic heart flutter and intestinal difficulties, and was privately tutored at the family villa. Turning from journalism, Battista entered the seminary at age eighteen and was ordained a priest four years later. Shortly after, Father Montini studied canon law in Rome. Though his ill health continued, he obtained his doctorate in canon law, studied for the Vatican diplomatic corps, and briefly served at the Apostolic Nunciature in Warsaw. Back in Rome, he served as a diplomat in Pope Pius XI's papal household and assisted at the Secretariat of State. When Pope Pius XII was elected in 1939, Monsignor Montini worked as the pope's de facto personal secretary.

During World War II, Monsignor Montini organized the Vatican's efforts to shelter and feed refugees, keep them hidden, and address their mental and spiritual needs. After the war, he was ordained the Archbishop of Milan and held several other offices. In Milan, Archbishop Montini built many churches, organized diocesan-wide catechesis, and sought innovative ways to share the Word of God. To confront the rise of Marxist ideology, he supported unions and immigrants. He reached out to other Christians, Jews, Muslims, and those without any faith.

Archbishop Montini became a cardinal and Archbishop of Milan after Pope John XXIII's 1958 election. He continued as a papal advisor, visited countries worldwide, and served on a commission that prepared for Vatican II. On October 11, 1962, Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council to connect the Church's ancient faith with the modern world, as well as to unite with people of all faiths and those with no faith. He believed that God wanted the Church to assist all peoples with the issues of modernization, communism, economic progress, war, and poverty.

After Pope John XXIII's death, Cardinal Montini was elected pope on June 21, 1963. He presided over the Second Vatican Council's remaining sessions and oversaw the implementation of its schema. He also implemented new liturgical rites for the sacraments and a new liturgical calendar. Pope Paul VI made apostolic journeys to seventeen different countries. In the Holy Land, he met with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch; the two mutually lifted the excommunications imposed upon the leaders of each Church in 1054. During his other journeys, he exhorted churches and nations to address world peace, social justice, poverty, illiteracy, ecumenism, and world unity.

Pope Paul VI's most difficult decision was the promulgation of the encyclical Humanae Vitae that reiterated longstanding Church teaching on contraception. Though many bishops and theologians recommended the moral acceptance of contraception, the pope prayerfully followed his conscience. resulting in outrage, especially in the Western World. He foresaw what would result from the liberal use of contraception: infidelity, moral decline, diminished respect for women, governmental abuse of power, and an erroneous belief that humans have an unlimited dominion over their own bodies.

Pope Saint Paul VI, as a faithful servant of Christ and His Church, you prayerfully sought to share the Church's ancient and glorious faith with the whole world. Please pray that I will be a faithful servant of Christ's Church, doing all I can to bring God's grace and mercy to all. Pope Saint Paul VI, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

CATHOLICCARE BROKEN BAY

Celebrating National Volunteer Week at CatholicCare

This week (19–25 May), we join Australia in celebrating National Volunteer Week - the nation's largest annual celebration of volunteering. The 2025 theme, "Connecting Communities", underscores the vital role volunteers play in bringing people together and strengthening our communities.

At CatholicCare, we are deeply grateful for our dedicated volunteers who selflessly contribute their time and energy to support our mission. Their compassion and commitment make a profound impact on the lives of those

One inspiring example is Susan, who, after receiving an Alzheimer's diagnosis in her 50s, was motivated to volunteer at CatholicCare's Memory Innovations Centre to help other people who have started to notice changes in their memory. Susan credits the Brain Games classes with helping her maintain her cognitive health and she now gives back by supporting others facing similar challenges.

If you're inspired to make a difference, consider joining our team of volunteers. Your unique skills and kindness can help us build a more connected and compassionate community. Call us today on 1800 324 924 to find out more.

RECONCILIATION: A JOURNEY TOGETHER

National Reconciliation Week is a time to reflect, to listen and to walk together. It reminds us that healing begins when we face the past with honesty and look to the future with respect and care.

This week, we remember the strength and wisdom of First Nations peoples. We honour their stories, cultures and deep connection to this land. Their voices matter.

Reconciliation is not just a word, it's action. It's choosing kindness, fairness and understanding. It's speaking up when something isn't right. It's about learning, being open to seeing things differently and standing side by side.

There is hope in every step we take together. Hope in the conversations we have, in the friendships we build and in the changes we make.

Let this week inspire us all, to listen more, to learn more and to love more deeply, because when we walk together, with open hearts and minds, we can build a future that's fair, united and strong.

Now more than ever, we must keep going - together.

Dear God, help us to listen, to care and to walk together. May we learn from each other and treat every person with respect. Guide us toward peace and a shared journey of hope. Amen.

Source: majellan.media



www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks

PASTORAL WORKS MAY 2025

This month, we invite you to support the Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeal! Look out for the envelopes located in your parish, or make your contribution here: www.bbcatholic.org.au/ pastoralworks

Your generosity makes a real difference in support of vital local ministries and programs, including:

Hospital Chaplaincy - Bringing comfort and hope to the sick and isolated Support for Catechists - Sharing the Gospel with children in public schools

Thank you for being a part of this mission to bring the hope and healing of Christ to our community.

> All donations over \$2 are 100% tax deductible. Envelopes can be found on the pews.

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

31/5/25 to 1/6/25 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	CHILDREN
Reader1	Natasha S	Kath M	CHILDREN
Reader2	Edyn V	Judy H	CHILDREN
Prayers	Daniel V	Keith W	CHILDREN
TV		Jules O	Fogarty Fam
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		John T	Jack/Adam F
Music		Noelle T	Martina J
Music			Sandra M
Morning Tea		Tania T	Robin B
FLOWERS	Hannah A		



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

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.

For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds12.45pm Midday prayer

6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers **8.00pm** Night prayer - Compline

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NOTICE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Parents,

Please note that First Holy Communion sessions will resume as follows:

- Wednesday group: Commences May 7
- Friday group: Commences May 9

The above sessions are for children who began the Sacramental Program with Confirmation last year.

NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS (JUNE)

Enrolments for the next Sacramental Program will open in June. Forms will be distributed through public schools in the coming weeks.

For children not attending public schools, please contact the parish office or collect a form from the Church Sacristy.

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

DID YOU KNOW...

The first reading at Mass is always chosen to match the Gospel reading.

Parish office hours:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm (School holidays only open Fridays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com

After hours: 0437 884 233

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia





MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159

121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

PARISH BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:

CBA—Catholic Development Fund