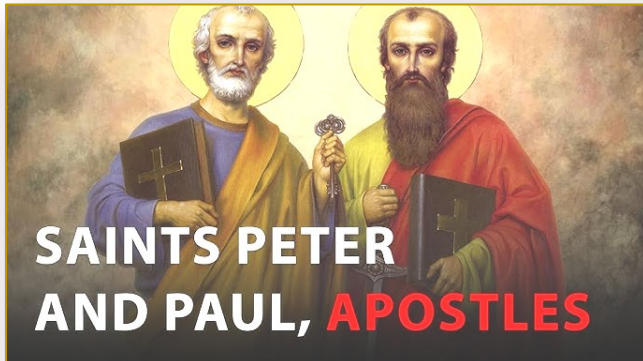


St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH MASS TIMES

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
Parish Office 9653 2312



STS PETER & PAUL APOSTLES YEAR C

28 & 29 JUNE 2025

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.

COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the
Apostles Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church
may in all things follow the teaching
of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion.
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: REVELATION

This Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 16:13–19, Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Peter responds with deep faith, declaring Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus affirms Peter's faith and gives him a foundational role in the Church.

I ask myself:

- Who is Jesus to me personally?
- How do I show my faith in daily life?
- When have I recognized God's hand guiding me?
- Am I open to the mission God has for me?
- Do I trust that God can use me, even with my flaws?

Faith in Divine Revelation

Lord Jesus,
Open my heart to truly know You as the Son of God.
Strengthen my faith to trust in Your Word and follow where
You lead. Like Peter, may I receive Your truth with
courage and live it with love. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord set me free from all my fears.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 (JB)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-19 (JB)

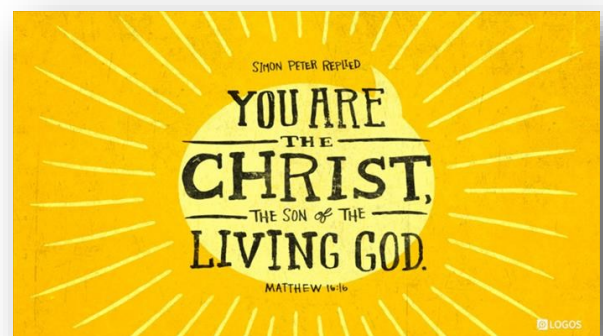
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

29 Sunday, June 29

Sts. Peter and Paul

Acts 12:1-11 / Psalm 34:2-9 / 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 / Matthew 16:13-19

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16)

Today we celebrate Sts. Peter and Paul. While these two apostles couldn't have been more different in personality and background, they have one essential trait in common. Both believed and proclaimed the message that Peter declares in today's Gospel: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16).

We see it in our first reading, where Peter is imprisoned in a heavily guarded jail. Why? Because despite the threats of the authorities, he kept talking about Jesus. He was convinced of his power and authority. No doubt Peter's miraculous deliverance from sixteen guards that night only helped confirm his conviction!

We also see it in our second reading, where Paul speaks some of his last words to Timothy. He knows that he is being "poured out like a libation" (2 Timothy 4:6). And yet he is confident that he has "finished the race" and "kept the faith" (4:7). Why? Because as he looked over his life, he recalled all the ways that Jesus had stood by him, giving him strength and rescuing him from danger.

This truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, became the very foundation of Peter and Paul's lives. It was the reality that spurred them to keep following the Lord. It motivated them to testify to Jesus before massive crowds, to their closest friends, and in front of religious and secular authorities. And it strengthened them as they faced martyrdom for their faith.

As you consider these two holy men today, you can almost hear them saying, *See how Jesus has changed our lives! Who do you say that he is? How does that make a difference in the way you live?*

"Jesus, I proclaim that I believe you are the Christ! Let this truth become my foundation today and every day!"

Source: Word Among Us India

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

JUNE 2025

Monday 30:

Gen 18:16-33. Mt 8:18-22.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church.

JULY 2025

Tuesday 1:

Gen 19:15-29. Mt 8:23-27.

R. O Lord, your kindness is before my eyes.

Wednesday 2:

Gen 21:5 8-20. Mt 8:28-34.

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Thursday 3:

Eph 2:19-22. Jn 20:24-29.

R. Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

St Thomas, apostle.

Friday 4:

Gen 23:1-4, 19:24:1-8, 62-67. Mt 9:9-13.

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

St Elizabeth of Portugal.

Saturday 5:

Gen 27:1-5, 15-29. Mt 9:14-17.

R. Praise the Lord for he is good.

St Anthony Zaccaria, priest.



Source: Ordo 2025



Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for July 2025:

For formation in discernment

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES & PARISH FINANCE MINUTES

MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE
UPON REQUEST.

Any suggestions to Parish Pastoral Council or Parish
Finance can be given to Fr Shansana.

PETER'S PENCE

This weekend we join with other Parishes across the world in taking up the Vatican's annual Peter's Pence Collection. The Peter's Pence Collection provides for the charitable works of mercy identified by His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, including emergency assistance to those in need due to natural disaster, war, oppression and disease.

Your generosity allows the Holy Father to respond to those suffering with love and compassion.

You can make a gift using the Peter's Pence collection envelope available in the pews. Thank you for your generosity.

ST.VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

This weekend 28/29th June

We are launching our Vinnies Winter Appeal this weekend and will be collecting donations until the end of July. Envelopes for donations of money are in the Church today and can be returned anytime in the next month.

At the Church entrances we have our red buckets in which we are hoping to receive donations of non-perishable food and toiletries. We would be so grateful for any donations from our Community at this time. Thanks in anticipation, Arcadia Vinnies Conference.

THINKING ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS AS AN ADULT?

If you've been considering receiving the Sacraments whether Baptism, Reconciliation, or Holy Communion, as an adult or a more mature person, we warmly invite you to take the next step in your faith journey. A new Adult Sacramental Program will be starting soon.

Please contact Fr Shansana or reach out to the Parish office for more information.

We'd love to walk with you on this sacred path.

HOLY COMMUNION



Congratulations to all the children who received their First Holy Communion last Sunday! It was a truly joyful and sacred occasion, and we give thanks to God for this special milestone in their faith journey.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the day so memorable:

To **Gebran and Tanya**, thank you for your dedication in preparing the children so beautifully.

To **Melanie, Keith & Marissa**, your music lifted our hearts and brought reverence and joy to the celebration.

To **Jules, Mandah, Mary, Paula, Paul, Edyn, and Daniel**, your help and presence behind the scenes made everything run smoothly.

And to everyone who contributed in any way—your generosity, time, prayers and support are deeply appreciated.

May God bless you all abundantly for the love and service you share in our parish community.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 1 July at 7:00pm
in the Parish Meeting Room.

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 Vincent Bacha, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

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

Luke Manassa, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, 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 ACTIVITIES

Calling All Children and Families!

We invite all children and families who are interested in getting involved in upcoming parish activities and children Masses to reach out!

If your child would like to participate, please **send an email to the parish office** with the **child's name and a contact number**. We look forward to welcoming more young faces into our parish life!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DAY



We will be celebrating "Our Lady of Fatima Day"
On 12 October 2025

Please keep this day in your diary.

We invite everyone from St Benedict's to attend this beautiful celebration. Details to come.

We invite children to be part of the Fatima Play and the Procession. Please contact Teresa on 0438 521 421.

Our next Fatima meeting will be on Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 7pm. In the Parish Meeting Room. All committee members are to attend and guests are welcome.

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

JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP!

- **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 be a Youth Leader, please email the parish office.

Our Youth Coordinators have Working With Children Checks. Thank you, Gabe & Jules!

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Term 2 finishes this week, on Friday 4th July and Term 3 will commence the week of Monday 21st July.

Free training being provided by the CCD –

- Final Ministry Induction training for new Catechists this Monday 30 June at 6:15-8:30pm via Zoom. This topic will be 'Lesson Planning Using Digital Resources.'
 - Training during the July school holidays for all fully authorised Catechists – the topic will be 'Teaching Discipleship in the 21st Century, Australia' via Zoom and face-to-face. Various dates have been 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'
 - Level 2 training for fully authorised Catechists on "The Church in the 3rd Millennium" commencing on Friday 25th July 10am -12:15pm via Zoom
- RSVP registrations@bbccatholic.org.au

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

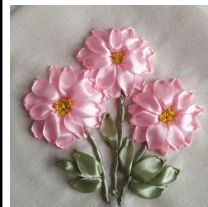
God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE



Please join us for our upcoming Maker's Table workshop at St Benedict's!

Ribbon Embroidery Flower Workshop
Wednesday, July 2nd,

7.30-9.30pm

Cost: \$10 (covers materials, refreshments and donation for room hire)

RSVP by 29/6/25 so we can set a special place at the Table for you!

Ribbon embroidery is a quick and simple way to create a gorgeous floral embroidery. We will complete our embroidery on a timber-look frame that will be ready to hang when completed. We will provide silk ribbon, fabric and frame so you can take a finished, ready-to-hang artwork home with you.

themakerstablesydney@gmail.com

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

First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

Feast Day: June 30



Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus was the fifth Roman Emperor and reigned from 54–68 A.D. He was extravagant, impulsive, tyrannical, violent, and a madman. He murdered his first wife and even his own mother. In AD 64, when Nero was twenty-seven and had been emperor for ten years, a fire broke out in Rome. The fire burned for nine days, destroying most of the city. Many believe that Nero himself had the fire set to make room for a new palace. When people questioned Nero, he blamed the Christians for the fire. Christians were then a small minority in Rome and were seen as a menace and disruption to the traditional Roman way of life and the traditional Roman gods. Nero systematically had as many Christians as he could arrested, tried, and murdered in the most brutal ways.

The Church remembers and honors these first Roman Christian martyrs today. Saints Peter and Paul were among them, but numerous unknown others also gave their lives. Some were sewn into the bellies of animals while still alive and then fed to wild dogs to be torn to pieces. Others were coated with wax and lit on fire as torches in Nero's gardens while he entertained guests. Still others were crucified like our Lord. These persecutions exceeded mere execution for a crime; they manifested an evil of the most diabolical nature.

These martyrdoms did not eliminate Christianity from the Roman Empire, as had been expected. Instead, the witness of many courageous men and women planted and watered the seeds of faith that would continue to grow, blossom, and produce an abundance of good fruit.

For nearly three centuries, the persecution of Christians varied under the Roman emperors. The most severe persecutions occurred two centuries later during the reigns of Emperors Decius (249–251) and Diocletian (284–305). It was not until AD 313, when Emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity with the Edict of Milan, that imperial persecutions ceased.

Today's feast is placed just one day after the Church honors Saints Peter and Paul, the two most notable martyrs during this Neronian persecution. By celebrating Saints Peter and Paul first, followed by a feast for every other martyr who died alongside them, the Church invites us to place ourselves in the shadows of Saints Peter and Paul and to join with the many unknown Christians who shed their blood for their faith.

Holy First Martyrs of Rome, you endured torment, hatred, and abuse, ultimately shedding your blood because of your deep courage and love of Christ. Please pray that I may be counted among your number in Heaven by manifesting the same depth of love and courage that you did. First Martyrs of Rome, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

JUBILEE OF PRIESTS 25-27 JUNE

THE JUBILEE OF PRIESTS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE JOY OF THE PRIESTHOOD.

GAZA URGENT HELP NEEDED

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza worsens, Caritas Australia is urgently advocating for safe and unhindered humanitarian access and the protection of all civilians. In solidarity with our global Caritas partners, we are supporting the delivery of life-saving aid — including food, medical supplies, hygiene items, and trauma care — despite extremely challenging conditions on the ground.

Pope Leo XIV has also renewed calls for an immediate end to hostilities and increased humanitarian aid, reminding us of our shared responsibility to uphold the dignity of every human life. [Donate to Gaza | Support Gaza Emergency Appeal](#)



Incredible SRI LANKA

13 NIGHTS/14 DAYS
DEPARTING AUSTRALIA
22 SEPTEMBER 2025

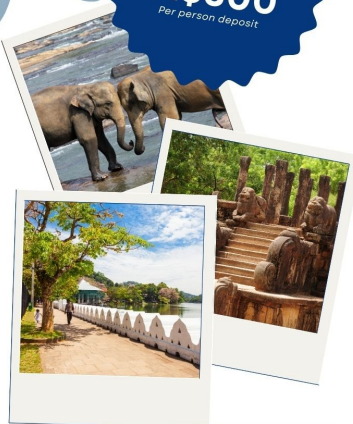
With your host
Fr. Michael Kelly OSB
Abbot General Emeritus

Colombo, Kandy, Haputale, Yala,
Galle, Key ancient sites &
Benedictine Communities

A\$5,945
Per person twin share
A\$500
Per person deposit

INCLUSIONS

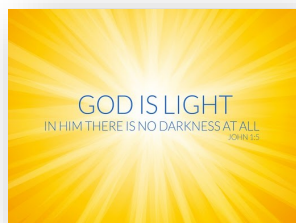
- Economy class flights on Singapore Airlines
- 5 star accommodation for 13 nights
- Daily Breakfast & Dinner
- Dinner from day 2 to Day 14
- Our own Airconditioned 24- seater coach
- First Class train tickets from Kandy to Ella including box lunch
- English speaking guide / Driver throughout the tour
- Entrance tickets to places we visit as in the itinerary.
- A visit to St. Anthony's Shrine
- Visit Benedictine Communities and Anglican sites



Book Now

Terms & Conditions apply - contact johanne@ettravel.com.au for more details
Single supplement available upon request.
Land only price available.
Price subject to availability and currency fluctuations.

FINDING LIGHT IN DARK TIMES



"Life isn't just about darkness or light, rather it's about finding light within the darkness. All things, even the deepest sorrow or the most profound happiness are all temporary. Hope is fuel for the soul, without hope, forward motion ceases. Life is about the good and the bad."
~ Landon Parham ~

Sometimes life feels heavy, like we're walking through a time of darkness. Things don't go to plan, or we find ourselves facing worries, sadness or uncertainty. It's in these moments that we often discover the most about ourselves.

Even when we can't see a way forward, growth is still happening, quietly, gently, like seeds growing beneath the ground before they break through the surface. We don't always notice it right away, but often the hardest times help us become stronger, wiser and more compassionate.

The dark moments don't last forever. Little by little, light returns. It might come from a friend's gentle support, a peaceful moment or the simple act of getting through the day.
Each small step matters.

When we come out the other side, we might find that we've grown in ways we didn't expect. We may carry scars, but we also carry strength, courage and hope, and because of what we've been through, we might be able to help others find their way, too.
No matter how dark it feels, remember that growth is still possible and light will return.

Dear God, guide me through the shadows. Help me notice the small signs of hope – in kindness, in peace and in inner strength. Remind me that You are always with me, even in the hardest times. Amen.

Source: majellan.media

Parish Roster

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**5/7/2025 to 6/7/2025
14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul C	George A
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Ann L	CHILDREN
Reader2	Natasha S	Mary C	CHILDREN
Prayers	Margaret B	Judy H	CHILDREN
TV		Teresa G	Jutrisa Family
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Jack/Adam F
Music		Pauline H	Martina J
Music		Marisa Q	
Morning Tea		Mary A	
FLOWERS	Tania T		

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 Readings
6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds
12.45pm Midday prayer
6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers
8.00pm Night prayer - Compline

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NOTICE

NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

Enrolments for the next Sacramental Program are now open. Program commences with Confirmation in October with lessons in August.

Please contact the parish office or collect a form from the Church Sacristy or email:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

Planned Giving Envelopes are now ready for collection.

They can be found on the front pew in the church, arranged in alphabetical order.

A sincere thank you to all who have already opted in to this important program. If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program, please contact the parish office.

Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW...

There are over 10,000 saints who have been recognised by the Catholic Church.



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

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.

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