

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia

To desire eternal life with all spiritual longing.
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

Church Attendance:
One person per 4sqm,
maximum 150 people.

**Masks are strongly
recommended by the Bishop.**

ONLINE Booking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BJSGK>
Or call Paula on 0423 078 282



Second Sunday of Advent Year B

5 & 6 December 2020

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Prepare the way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter
We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

PARISH MASSES

Weekend Mass:

Saturday	7:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
Sunday	10:30am
Sunday Latin	4.30pm

Weekday Mass:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 7:00pm followed by Confession
First Friday of the month 6.30pm Adoration

MONASTERY CHAPEL Mass

Sundays	7:00am
Daily	7:00am

Please contact Father Bernard for the following:

**BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS**

Fr Bernard: 0416 032 497

ADVENT WREATH



Second Candle:

Symbolizes Faith—reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Introduction

Priest:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. As we continue this Advent Season, we honour and remember your first coming at Bethlehem. You are coming, now, among us in grace.

We recall your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as universal king for ever and ever.

All: *Amen*

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

(The second purple candle, 'The Bethlehem Candle', is now lit by the Acolyte. We recall the place of the birth of the Messiah)

Reader:

Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, you are God with us - fulfilling the promise of Micah that out of Bethlehem of Judah would come the Saviour of the world.

V. Come, Em - man - u - el, R. Come to save us.

V. Be our way and truth, R. Be our light.

Composed by Father Stephen List, Tarrawarra Abbey. Used with Permission.

Reader:

Lord Jesus, you are the one who leads the faithful remnant of Israel to the fulfilment of the promise made throughout the Old Testament.

V. Come, bring us your peace, R. Peace we've longed for.

V. Hope of all the earth, R. Be our guide.

Composed by Father Stephen List, Tarrawarra Abbey. Used with Permission.

Gospel reading for this Week

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
 he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
 make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Jerusalem Bible translation of Scripture is used in the Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). Acknowledgement: The Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers. Liturgia Copyright 2020

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Mark 1:1-8

On this, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are given the person of St. John the Baptist to ponder. What a gift he is! Jesus Himself stated that “among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist” (Matthew 11:11). What a compliment!

What is it that made John so great? We can point to two things in particular. The first has to do with his calling and the second has to do with his virtue.

First of all, John was great because he was the transition from the Old Testament Prophets to the New Testament. He was the bridge that prepared for the new life to come. His unique mission makes him truly great.

But John was great not only because of his unique calling, he was also great because of the virtue he had in his life. And it is this gift that is worth pondering for our own inspiration more than any other.

The particular virtue that John had was that of humility. He saw himself as nothing other than a “voice of one crying out in the desert.” And the Word he spoke was Jesus.

John acknowledged that he was not even worthy to stoop down and untie the sandal straps of Jesus (Mark 1:7). He was praised by many and followed by many and yet he continuously said of Jesus that “He must increase and I must decrease” (John 3:30). John was not in it for praise and honour; rather, his mission was to point everyone to the Saviour of the world. He could have sought the honour and praise of many and he would have certainly received it. They may have even made him king. But John was more than willing to fulfill his mission and then submit himself to the cruel sword of his executioner. His humility was such that he was focused only on Jesus and desired only to point to Him.

Reflect, today, upon this humility in your own life. Do you tend to point to yourself or to Christ? Do you seek the praise of others or do you humbly point all praise and glory to God? Humility is the path that St. John the Baptist took and it's the path we must strive for each and every day.

Lord, thank You for the gift of St. John the Baptist. May his witness of humility inspire me in my Christian walk. Help me, Lord, to always point others to You rather than to myself. Jesus, I trust in You. AMEN.

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT*Chapter 4**To do no wrong to anyone, and to bear patiently wrongs done to oneself.***POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2020****FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER**

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ
be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

AMEN**CATHOLIC YOUTH BROKEN BAY****A Christmas Pilgrimage**

Catholic Youth Broken Bay invites you to participate in "A Christmas Pilgrimage" this coming Advent season!

"A Christmas Pilgrimage" is a collaboration between St Peter's Catholic College, St Leo's Catholic College, and students, staff and priests from around the Diocese with special guests you will not want to miss! What better way to celebrate the end of a challenging year than by bringing the true meaning of Christmas alive in our Catholic community of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

The pilgrimage will follow the Nativity story in the Gospel of Luke and some of the Gospel of Matthew. We have fantastic Christmas Carols, special reflections, lovely "moving pilgrimage stops", a special version of "Silent Night Invitation" by Father Rob Galea, Natasha and Gary Pinto, and more! Last - and definitely not least - we have "voices of Broken Bay", where throughout the pilgrimage stops we will hear what a number of different students, staff and priests from the Diocese love about Christmas and what the true meaning of Christmas is to them.

The pilgrimage will run for 11 days with a new 10-15 min episode released each day. The start date for Catholic schools will be 1 December whilst for parishes it will be 14 December. This will be a great resource to use each day in preparation for Christmas, or even right after Christmas in preparation for the Epiphany.

So please join us on "A Christmas Pilgrimage" from 14 December and feel free to stream, share and enjoy!

Let us enter into the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, and into the mission of "giving" just as Christ did by helping those in need through our support of St Vincent De Paul's Christmas Appeal.

May God bless us all and our families this Advent and Christmas Season.

December 14 to December 24

Catholic Youth Broken Bay
Facebook & Youtube

Please contact parish office if you would like us to add to the below to pray for someone

Call 9653 2312 or email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

In Our Parish

**We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died,
especially George Cascun and Vince Sellaro who both passed away this week.**

We welcome into God's family to all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Nancy Kazzi and Tony Jasprizza.

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of George Paul Cascun. Son of the late Paul & Benigna Cascun. Our deepest condolences to the family.



GEORGE PAUL CASCUN

Born 14 May 1964

Entered eternal life

1 December 2020



**Eternal rest grant to him oh Lord,
and let the perpetual light shine upon him,**

✠ May he Rest In Peace. ✠

NATIVITY SET UP

Thank you to the children who set up the nativity in our Church. What a beautiful job they did!

BENEDICTINE NUNS JAMBEROO ONLINE RETREATS

The Benedictine Nuns of Jamberoo are beginning to offer online retreats. Our upcoming retreat is titled:

Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days

Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ.

The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

For more information go to the following link on our website:
www.jamberooabbey.org.au - click on **Retreats**

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every Friday night after 7pm Mass, and Wednesday mornings after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CATECHIST NEWS

Welcome to all families attending our December Children's Mass! We would like to particularly recognize our students in Year 6 as they complete Primary School and move on to High School. May God bless them in the years ahead!

This weekend we are also presenting our Catechist Service Awards. As a parish, we recognise Mary Abood for 5 years of service as a Catechist, Noelle Takchi for 10 years of service as a Catechist, Gebran Azzi for 15 years of service as a Catechist and Bernadette Watt, Rita Sarkis and myself for 20 year of service as a Catechist (the time has flown!!). That makes 90 years of service between the 6 of us!

I would also like to congratulate Nancy and Daniel Kazzi on the birth of their son, Peter!

Final Scripture classes this week: Wednesday 9th December – Galston and Middle Dural

A big thanks to Paula and Paul El-Chaar for hosting our Annual Catechist Christmas last Friday. With government restrictions eased at the last minute, we were able to gather to celebrate the year. Thanks to all our Catechists for giving of their time this year! have a few Catechists who are unable to continue teaching, so if you are available to be a Catechist or a helper next year, please let Fr Bernard or myself know. Free training and teacher's manual are provided to all. If you are not able to help yourself, please pray for Catechists to come forward.

God bless,

Miriam Brown 9652 0558 or srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS AT VINNIES THIS YEAR

Because of Covid regulations and restrictions, your Conference members will **not** be packing grocery hampers this Christmas. Instead, we hope to give our few clients Gift Vouchers. We will use any money that you place in the **Poor Boxes** at the Church during November/early December to buy these vouchers and send what money is not used on to Vinnies head office, as usual.

If you need a receipt for your donation, please leave the details in an envelope in the box or let Paula at the Parish Office know.

ROSTERS

The Roster is available at the Sacristy window for Christmas Masses. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please fill in your names for the times you are available. Otherwise email the office arcadia.pariah@bigpond.com with the times and slots you are available to help out.

We are also in urgent need of **Saturday night Acolytes** please. If you are interested in becoming an Acolyte please contact Father Bernard.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods

1 December 2020

Vox Populi - The Voice of the People

He must increase...

By Deacon Sam French

This week, on the Second Sunday of Advent, the lectionary jumps back to the opening verses of Mark's Gospel, where we are introduced to Saint John the Baptist. Since I was a child, I've had a particular love for this ragged desert dwelling cousin of Jesus; I even chose him as my confirmation saint. While, I suppose, sainthood is not a competition, not too many among the 'Church Triumphant' can claim to have been called the "greatest among those born of women (Mt 11:11)" by Christ himself. So, if my bias towards John is a little obvious, I can safely say: Jesus started it.

I grew up as a parishioner of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Woy Woy and attended the parish primary school by the same name. I had the benefit of inspirational stories about John the Baptist's poverty, courage, and holiness drilled into my consciousness from day one of Kindergarten. I distinctly remember shouting the lyrics: "Fill every valley up, tear every mountain down, prepare the way of the Lord"¹ in Miss Culmer's Year 2 class, and being taught that we can be more like John the Baptist if we prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts by being much quieter.

Saint John the Baptist is often called the "Forerunner of Christ" for obvious reasons, but this was truly the case in my own spiritual journey. I remember realising how important Jesus must be, if the guy my church and school was named after was "not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals." This was an early glimpse at the divinity of Christ and the humility of Saint John.

Saint John's humility is again captured perfectly in his quote about Jesus, the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). This has long been one of my favourite scripture passages, but it has taken on a new significance in light of my recent Ordination to the Diaconate. Even with only a few weeks of ministry under my belt, I've begun to see with clearer eyes the nature of my vocation. In order to increase Christ through my preaching and sacramental ministry, I must decrease by submitting my will to his. I'm discovering that the spirit of diaconal service is, in some sense, a zerosum game – it's either my will or his, I can't have both.

The poverty of John's camel cloak and locust lunch make more sense to me now. The more I seek distractions or comforts superfluous to my vocation, the more my ministry suffers. As each week passes, I'm finding new habits – in thought and action – that need pruning to make room for Jesus to work better through me. For example, I learned that a prayerful, well thought-out homily can't coexist with a Netflix binge. Fortunately for me, John also proclaims "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin" (Mk 1:4).

Advent is a time of particularly focused spiritual preparation. I would encourage anyone reading this, regardless of your vocation, to take some time to reflect on the example of Saint John the Baptist, and ask his intercession to prepare the way of the Lord in your heart in these weeks leading up to Christmas.

In Christ,

Deacon Sam

¹ *Fill Every Valley, Michael Mangan*

KIDS PRAYER FOR ADVENT



My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season.
Please help me to understand all that You have done for me.
Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world.
Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God.
Draw me close to You and help me to see my sins
so that I can change the things that You want me to change.
Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent so that I may do all that God wants me to do.
You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you.
Please pray for me that I may do the same.
Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus, come!
I love You, Jesus.
Amen.

Source of Content: mycatholic.life

Oceania Webinar: Advent Recollection - Reflecting On The Joys And Struggles Of 2020

Tuesday 8 December 2020, 11.00am – 12.15pm (AEDT)

The newly launched Oceania Webinars offer regular gatherings for those in pastoral ministry to network, share resources and be inspired by new life and initiatives in the Catholic Church.

The final webinar for the year reflects on the joys and struggles of 2020.

As we finish a year that has thrown many challenges and opportunities to us all, this time of reflection allows us to come together as the Church of Oceania on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, to celebrate, and even lament the year that was.

Register for the Oceania Advent Recollection at tinyurl.com/adventrecolleciondec8

For further information, please contact Lisa Bright on 0448 652 720.

POSITION VACANT - ST AGATHA'S PARISH, PENNANT HILLS

Youth Minister – Pastoral Support Worker, St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills

10 hours per week

Do you have a passion for working with youth and young people? Are you dynamic and enthusiastic about the Catholic faith? Are you willing to help our youth and young people engage with their faith in a fun, caring and supportive environment?

St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills invites you to join our team as a Youth Minister. Visit bbcatholic.org.au/jobs for the full advertisement.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a pre-employment Working with Children Check and National Police History Check.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December 2020: 7pm & 11.30pm (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 9am & 10.30am

Latin Mass—To Be Advised.

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 7am



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Bookings is still essential or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 4sqms and sanitize your hands at the door. Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.

**MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME, ISOLATE AND GET TESTED.**

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.

Office Hours: Mondays 10.30am to 2.30pm

Fridays 10am to 3pm

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Bernard McGrath OSB

After hours: 0416 032 497

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

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

Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159

Good Samaritan Sisters: 9653 1231

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and Safeguarding Children matters
Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 1446 8001