

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



4 & 5 December 2021

## Second Sunday of Advent Year C



### PARISH Masses

#### Weekend:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday 10:30am

Latin Mass 4.30pm

#### Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6.30pm Adoration

7:00pm Mass & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am

Adoration & Confession  
(Reconciliation)

### MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am

Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Hilarion for the following:

**BAPTISMS  
RECONCILIATION  
FOR THE SICK  
MARRIAGES  
FUNERALS**

**Fr Hilarion: 0478 909 541**

### 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.

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

*Let us pray:*

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



*Wed December 8th*

*"Behold, a virgin shall  
conceive and bear a  
son, and shall name  
him Emmanuel"  
(Isaiah 7:14)*

Oh Mary conceived  
without sin, pray for us  
who have recourse to  
thee. Amen.

### PARISH REMINDERS

- Saturday 11th December:  
10.30am **Healing and Anointing Mass.**
- Sunday 12th December:  
**Vinnies and Christmas appeal**  
(share Christmas with the poor)
- Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th December:  
**Mini Parish Fete** after Confirmation  
and weekend Masses.

**First Reading****Baruch 5:1-9 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Baruch

*Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,

the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God;

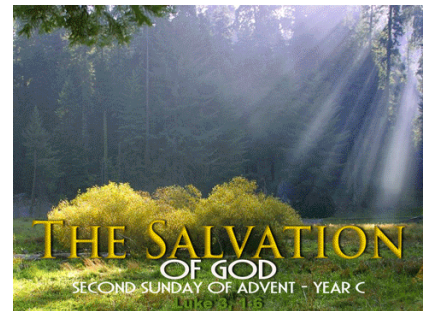
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.**

**Second Reading****Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!****GOSPEL****Luke 3:1- 6 (JB)**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

*"For the forgiveness of sins"*

This Advent I would invite you to make this consent to be forgiven because this is a very unique gift to God. He, as God, can show mercy; he cannot receive it. As God, he is the Lord of forgiveness, but he cannot be forgiven. We can say, in our human way of expressing a real truth of God before which all human language limps and falters, that we can contribute something to God, who cannot be forgiven. And so, let us bring to him, in everything that we strive to do this Advent, this consent to be forgiven, this gift of being forgiven. When he with lordly mercy, promises to throw all our faults and our sins into the sea, let us not put on the diving equipment of pride and go right down and bring them up again.

There is something in all of us that would like to pretend that we do not need to be forgiven, and this is why we sometimes get so excited about our faults, why we cannot be simple, why we will not stop rocking that little spiritual monster-child that we cuddle so, that we do not want laid to Christian burial. We want to keep looking at it and in the end we convince ourselves that it is beautiful. Or the other alternative is to say that this isn't my child; it is somebody else's. We are adept at choosing one of those two alternatives which save us from being forgiven...

Let this be our consolation, that God is truth and all truth honours him; therefore, the honest admission of our faults gives glory to God. And so, there is no reason to be discouraged because no matter how many faults the light of the coming King brings into focus in our hearts, everything honestly faced can give honour to him. Now isn't that wonderful? Isn't that something to be happy about? Isn't that why we continually rejoice in this season of penance? We laugh together and we are happy together, because this is the whole meaning of Advent, that we are the forgiven ones.

*Mother Mary Francis of Our Lady, P.C.C.*

Mother Mary Francis (+2006) was abbess of the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Roswell, New Mexico.

(Source: Magnificat-USR) Dec21 (Pg 83).

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday	December 6, 2021:	St Nicholas, bishop
Tuesday	December 7, 2021:	St Ambrose, bishop, doctor
Wednesday	December 8, 2021:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday	December 9, 2021:	St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, hermit
Friday	December 10, 2021:	Our Lady of Loreto
Saturday	December 11, 2021:	St Damasus I, pope

Source: Ordo 2021

*God, Our Father,  
loving and merciful,  
bring together and keep all families  
in perfect unity of love and mutual support.  
Instill in each member the spirit of understanding  
and affection for each other.  
Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them,  
and for their occasional failures  
instill forgiveness and peace.  
May the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example.  
Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others  
and grow in mature independence.  
May the mutual affection and respect of families  
be a sign of Christian life here and hereafter,  
through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and Saviour.  
**Amen.***

SOURCE: mycatholic.life

## THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

### Chapter 4

*Not to render cursing for cursing, but rather blessing.*

#### PARISH FUNDS

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported the parish by helping out in the past few months. We really appreciate it.

With the suspension of Liturgies and Masses, our parish income has been severely affected, especially we have not had a fete for two years. Planned Giving, Donations and Electronic Transfers has been keeping us going during that difficult time.

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

#### PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK DETAILS

**Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:**

**BSB: 062 784**

**Acct: 100002141**

**Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:**

**CBA—Catholic Development Fund**

God bless you all!

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

St.Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held on the 11th & 12th December 2021. Your donation can provide food for a family to get them through a crisis and ensure they don't go hungry.

#### NEW VACUUM CLEANER NEEDED

If anyone is willing to donate a **new** vacuum for the parish please contact the office on 9653 2312. We are in desperate need of a new one.



#### SISTER MARIE LANE



At the time of her death on 20<sup>th</sup> November, Marie had been a Sister of the Good Samaritan for 66 years. She was a teacher in Queensland, NSW and in Victoria and most enjoyed teaching art. During the middle period of her life, Marie's ministry opened into new horizons when she began art classes for men at a St Vincent de Paul shelter for the homeless in Melbourne. In Sydney, she continued this work in welfare in a variety of places, including co ordinating a program for the Sisters of Charity Outreach Centre at St Vincent's.

Marie's funeral was held at St Brigid's, Marrickville, on December 1. St Brigid's was the parish in which she grew up and the parish where she had been living before moving to Rowland Village in 2017.

*May she rest in peace.*

#### MASS FOR ANOINTING OF THE SICK

There will be a Mass for Anointing of the Sick on **Saturday 11th of December 10.30am** at our parish. If you know anyone who is sick, housebound or elderly in need of healing, please let us know if they need transport.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a Sacrament which celebrates our faith in the healing touch of Christ in our lives. We pray that the sick person be healed in body, soul and spirit. The Sacrament offers forgiveness and healing. Not only in physical healing but in mind as well, easing our anxieties, healing our wounds and fears turn to hope.

*"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."*  
(James 5:14-15)

Morning tea will be provided afterwards. Everyone welcome.



#### CONGRATULATIONS



##### *Congratulations to*

**Michael Kugel and Ivana Kugel (Marinov)**

Who received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on Friday November 26th. May our Lord bless you with love, happiness and guidance throughout your life.



## In Our Parish

We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Sr Marie Lane.

We pray for the sick of our Parish,  
*especially Brother Mario, and Theresa Gittany (Lila Bacha's mum).*





## ST BENEDICT'S MINI FETE

**On Saturday 18th of December from 3pm and Sunday 19th December after the Masses, we will be holding a couple of stalls and items for fundraising.**

Update on our new puzzles that have just come in. Are you looking for a Christmas, communion, or any other present. Puzzles are 500 pieces \$25. I will be selling these to raise money for our local parish St Benedict Arcadia. The supplier will donate \$13 from every puzzle sold. Please private message me to place an order on the new or our older puzzles (limited stock we still have).

There will be other stalls with lots of goodies for sale!

If you have anything you would like to donate for selling please bring it along!

Thankyou.

Lila Bacha Phone: 0418 360 024



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2021

- The confirmed date is on:  
Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 at 2pm.
- The preparation day is on:  
Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2021  
from 10am to 12pm.
- We request all the candidates and their parents to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/ confession prior to the event.



For any information please contact:  
Theresa Neely on 0447 425 077

## CATECHIST NEWS

Welcome to all families joining in the Children's Mass this weekend. In particular we would like to recognise all children in Year 6 as they complete primary school and wish them every blessing as they move on to high school next year. Please stay for morning tea after the 10.30am Mass this weekend.

The CCD has prepared a lovely Advent and Christmas message from the Catholic SRE teachers to all families. Please go to the link or website below to access a variety of craft and cooking activities as well as links to Advent and Christmas songs, family prayers and more. [An Advent & Christmas Message from Catholic SRE Scripture Teachers](https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/ccd/ccd-christmas-message/catholic-sre-christmas-message-2021) (<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/ccd/ccd-christmas-message/catholic-sre-christmas-message-2021>)

If you are planning for next year and have an hour free on Wednesdays or Fridays during school term and are interested in finding out more about sharing your faith with young people, you are very welcome to either email me or call the parish office. There are vacancies for Catechists (Scripture teachers) available for next year.

God bless,

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

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

## BISHOP'S VISIT

Bishop Anthony Randazzo visited our parish on Sunday the 28th of November meeting up with the Latin Mass parishioners.



## PRAYERS



We pray for the soul of  
**GEORGE PAUL CASCUN**

Whose

**1st Anniversary is on the 1st of December**

*"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
And let the perpetual light shine upon him,  
May he rest in peace.  
Amen"*

## CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

**Friday nights:**

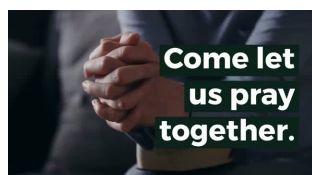
after 7pm Mass

**Wednesday mornings:**

after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.



## DRAFT ROSTER

The Roster is available at the Sacristy window for Christmas Masses and next year. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please fill in your names for the times you are available. Otherwise email the office [arcadia.parish@bigpond.com](mailto:arcadia.parish@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 Hilarion. Training is provided.

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome. For more details call Angela Egiziano.  
Ph: 9653 2312.



# ADVENT WREATH

## Second Candle:

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



### 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.

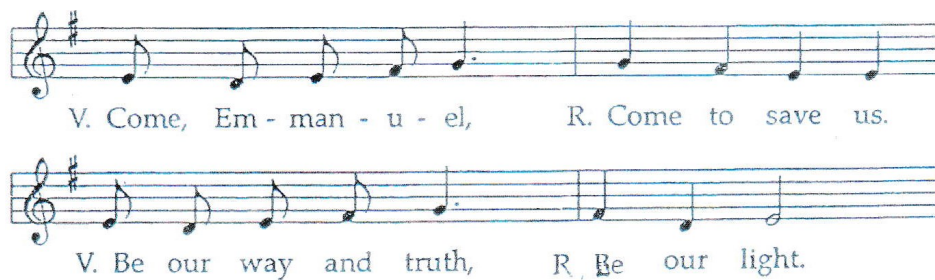
All:    *Amen*

### 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:

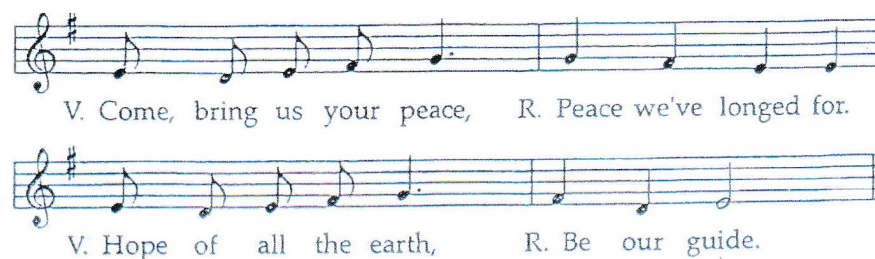
Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, you are God with us - fulfilling the promise of Micah that out of Bethlehem of Judah would come the Saviour of the world.



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.



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

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### ***St Nicholas, bishop*** ***C. Third—fourth century***

*Feast Day: December 6*

*Patron Saint of Russia, sailors, merchants, and children*  
***Santa Claus signed the Nicene Creed***



Traditions the world over are so embedded in the rhythms of daily life that their ubiquity goes unnoticed. Why a birthday cake with lighted candles? Why make a wish and then blow those candles out? The origin of this charming tradition is obscure. Why shake hands, toast by clinking glasses, cross fingers for good luck, or have bridesmaids? The sources of many traditions are so historically remote and culturally elusive as to allow diverse interpretations of their meaning. Today's saint is without doubt, however, the man behind the massively celebrated tradition of Santa Claus, the most well-known Christmas figure after Jesus and the Three Kings. Santa Claus' mysterious nocturnal visits to lavish children with gifts at Christmastime is not a tradition whose origin is lost in the mists of history. It is a tradition firmly rooted in Christianity.

Little is known about the life of Saint Nicholas, besides that he was the Catholic Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor in the early fourth century. It is likely that he suffered under the persecution of Diocletian and certain that he later attended the Council of Nicea in 325. "Nicholas of Myra of Lycia" appears on one of the earliest and most reliable lists of the Bishops at Nicea. Some of the bishops at Nicea looked like soldiers who had just crawled off the battlefield; eyes gouged out, skin charred black, stumps for legs. These were the front-line torture victims of Diocletian. The Emperor Constantine had called the Council, and when he entered the dim hall to inaugurate the great gathering, this colossus, the most powerful man in the world, dressed in robes of purple, slowly walked among the hushed and twisted bodies and did something shocking and beautiful. He stopped and kissed each eyeless cheek, each scar, gash, wound, and mangled stub where an arm had once hung. With this noble gesture, the healing could finally begin. The Church was free. The mitred heads wept tears of joy, and Saint Nicholas was among them.

At his death, Saint Nicholas was buried in his see city. Less than a century later, a church was built in his honor in Myra and became a site of pilgrimage. And the Emperor Justinian, in the mid-500s, renovated a long-existing church dedicated to Saint Nicholas in Constantinople. In Rome, a Greek community was worshipping in a basilica dedicated to Saint Nicholas around 600. The church can still be visited today. These churches, and hundreds of others named for Saint Nicholas, prove that devotion to our saint was widespread not long after his death.

When Myra was overrun by Muslim Turks in the 1000s, there was a risk that the saint's bones would disappear. So in 1087, sailors from Bari, Italy, committed a holy theft and moved Saint Nicholas' relics to their own hometown. In 1089 the Pope came to Bari to dedicate a new church to Saint Nicholas. And just a few years later, Bari became the rendezvous point for the First Crusade. Saint Nicholas was the patron saint of travelers and sailors, making him popular with the crusading knights. These knights, in turn, later brought the devotion to Saint Nicholas they learned in Bari back to their villages dotting the countryside of Central and Western Europe. Thus it happened that a saint famous along the shores of the Mediterranean became, in ways not totally understood, the source of gift-giving traditions that endure until today in every corner of Europe.

Legends state that Nicholas saved three sisters from lives of shame by secretly dropping small sacks of gold through their family's window at night, thus giving each a marriage dowry. Other legends relate that Nicholas secretly put coins in shoes that were left out for him. Nicholas' legacy of gift-giving became a Central-European and Anglo-Saxon expression of the gift-giving formerly exclusive to the Three Kings. Christmas night gift-giving in Northern lands thus slowly replaced the more biblically solid traditions of giving gifts on the Feast of the Epiphany, a custom more popular in Southern Europe and in lands which inherited its traditions.

The antiquity of the Church means it has played a matchless role in the formation of Western culture, a role that no faux holidays or new "tradition" can replicate. Santa Claus has roots. He wears red for the martyrs. He dons a hat resembling a bishop's mitre. He often holds a sceptre similar to a bishop's crozier. And he distributes gifts to children in humble anonymity on the night of Christ's birth. Old Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, or Santa Claus is real, in one sense. In all likelihood, he signed the Nicene Creed. Our "Santa," then, was an orthodox Catholic bishop who argued for correct teaching about our Trinitarian God. The gift of the truth was, then, his first and most lasting gift to mankind.

***Saint Nicholas, your service as a bishop included not only teaching correctly the mysteries of our faith but also generous and humble charity in alleviating the material needs of your neighbor. Help all of us to combine good theology with Christian action like you did. Amen.***



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

### PARISH:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th Dec 2021: 7pm & 11.30pm (*Midnight Mass*)

Christmas Day Saturday 25th Dec 2021: 9am

25th Dec 2021: 10.30am (*Latin Mass*)

25th Dec 2021: 7pm (*Vigil feast of The Holy Family*)

Sunday 26th Dec 2021: 9am & 10.30am Feast of Holy Family

New Years Day Saturday 1st Jan 2022: 9.30am Feast Mary Mother of God  
7pm Vigil Mass for Epiphany

Sunday 2nd Jan 2022: 9am & 10.30am Feast of Epiphany

Sunday 9th Jan 2022: 9am & 10.30am Feast Baptism of the Lord

### MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th Dec 2021: 7am

New Year Day Saturday 1st Jan 2022: 7am



## COVID 19 SAFETY RULES

### PLEASE WEAR MASKS.

Please use QR CODE or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries.

Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 2sqms and sanitise your hands at the door.

Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.

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

## 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 Hilarion 0478 909 541, Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882, Office for Safeguarding 83791605.

## 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.

Office Hours: **Mondays & Fridays**  
9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

Email: hilarionfernando@yahoo.com

After hours: 0478 909 541

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

Address: 2 Fagans Road,  
Arcadia NSW 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 100002141 (**NEW BANK DETAILS**)

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.