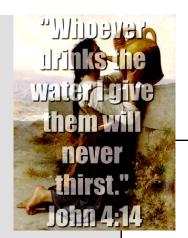
St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 11 & 12 MARCH 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am (Wednesday 9am Stations of the Cross) Fridays 6.30pm Stations of the Cr

s 6.30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm Mass & Confession

(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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.*

REFLECTION: Eternal Life

Sunday's Gospel, John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink"...... "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

- What is God offering me in this story at this point in my life?
- Do I have a thirst for life? For God?
- Have I ever experienced being nourished by God's word and his love?
- What is the spring of water for me?



Dear Lord,

Help me to understand what you are offering me. Help me to have a thirst for you in everything I do. Help me be nourished by Your word and your love so I may have eternal life. Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42 (Year A) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again; the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2023

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, March 12 Exodus 17:3-7 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-42

While we were still helpless . . . (Romans 5:6)

Do you think of yourself as "helpless"? Of course not, you might reply. I have God-given abilities; I have family and friends to support me. I can take care of myself in lots of ways.

But this isn't the type of "helplessness" that St. Paul is talking about in our first reading. He's saying that Jesus didn't wait for us to help ourselves out of sin; he gave us his help by dying on the cross for us. He offered his mercy even before we asked for it! It sounds a bit like the father of the prodigal son in yesterday's Gospel, doesn't it?

The story of the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel shows this principle in action as well. From the outside, this woman might not have seemed all that helpless. But Jesus saw her vulnerability and powerlessness. As a much-married woman now living in sin, she was helpless to integrate herself into society. That's why she went to draw water at midday, when all the other women would not be there (John 4:6-7). She was helpless to explain her irregular marital situation when Jesus brought it up (4:16-17). And she was helpless against whatever fallen drives or external forces that kept pushing her from one relationship to the next (4:18).

But Jesus came to her in all that helplessness and offered her the water of life. He didn't wait for her to get her act together. He didn't wait for her to seek him out. He came to her and engaged with her. He gave her hope that her life could change, that she could be saved, and that she could be restored. Simply put, in her helplessness, Jesus helped her.

He can do that for you, too! Even now, Jesus wants to help you, even if you don't think of yourself as "helpless." He sees your need, and he has just the right amount of grace and love to fill that need. So let Jesus come to you and help you today.

"Jesus, I need you!"

(Source: Word Among Us India Feb-Mar Pg 34)

PRAY FOR US

MARCH 18TH

{315-386}

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 13 Readings: 2 Kg 5:1-15. Lk 4:24-30.

R: My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

Tuesday 14 Readings: Dan 3:25, 24-43. Mt 18:21-35.

R: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Wednesday 15 Readings: Deut 4:1, 5-9. Mt 5:17-19.

R: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Thursday 16 Readings: Jer 7:23-28. Lk 11:14-23.

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Friday 17 Readings: Jer 1:4-9. Acts 13:46-49. Lk 10:1-12, 17-20.

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

St Patrick, bishop.

Saturday 18 Readings: Hosea 5:15 - 6:6. Lk 18:9-14.

R: It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.

St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor.

Source: Ordo 2023

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2023

FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4
To reverence the old.

PARISH FUNDS

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

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Acct: 100002141 Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund

LENTEN GROUP

Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone:

Every Wednesday night 7pm until Good Friday

Address: 726A Old Northern Road, Dural. RSVP Ph: Benigna 0450 311 951

Program led by Gebran Azzi.

Everyone welcome!

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, 4 April** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

The priests of our Diocese gather for this celebration with Most Rev Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitment.

During Mass, the oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and then taken back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year.

Parishioners are warmly invited to join together in this celebration. Please contact the parish office before Friday 17 March should you wish to attend.



HAPPY 67TH ANNIVERSARY



JOE & JESSIE GUIANA Married 17th March 1956

For such a long time, you have loved each other in rain or shine which represents the powerful strength of love and longevity.

You have shown us what true love is in God's eyes.

You deserve the best wishes and blessings from all of us at St Benedict's Parish!

Congratulations on your 67th Anniversary beautiful couple! Here's to many more!

PARISH REQUEST

Does anyone have a spare garden weed sprayer at least 10 litres backpack pump spray they are willing to give to the parish to use?

Also need a good pair of secateurs.

Items similar to the photos below...
we already have our awesome Joe Gatt to do the job so
the man in the pic not necessary!





Cotteli Core DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM THAT YOU JUST CAN'T SOLVE ON YOUR OWN? 1800 324 924 www.cimilitizinelikung.us

CATHOLIC CARE

Do you have a problem that you can't solve on your own?

Contact CatholicCare. Ph: 1800 324 924

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 Tony Takchi, Brother Mario and Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum).

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Simon Basha and Chris Singleton....may they Rest in Peace.

ST BENEDICT'S MEN'S MEET & GREET

Monday 13th March 2023 7.30pm to 8.30pm

An hour for men of different ages for an informal opportunity to get together, communicate and share thoughts of current views in a relaxed environment, free of judgement, supporting connection and meeting other like-minded men from our community.

Contact Mirko for more information on 0409 678 780.

Ps. If you would like to form a women's group please contact the parish.

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week's nomination we would like thank:

ROSIE SAKKAL for all her volunteer work. Rosie is always one of the first to turn up when we need help cleaning with her apron carrying her broom! Also when there's anything that is needed for our parish Rosie is just there! She also helped clean the bathrooms and the church while we had no cleaners at the time. Rosie also helps with morning tea, on the Piety stalls, raffles, always brings dishes when we need catering, and so much more! Thank you for everything you do for us!

Is there someone you would like to nominate? Please mention it to Fr Shansana or Paula.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

For those already enrolled and have already received their Sacrament of Confirmation, First Reconciliation Classes begin:

Mondays 6th March 2023 (group 1) until 27th March 2023 — 4.15pm to 5.15pm Wednesdays 8th March 2023 (group 2) until 29th March 2023 — 5.30pm to 6.30pm

1st Reconciliation on - Saturday 1st April - 10am

OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in August 2023. Please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list.

In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is:



Confirmation, Reconciliation, then Eucharist. Children are usually prepared for these sacraments in Years 3 and 4.

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every **Friday nights**: after 7pm Mass

Wednesday mornings: after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome. **Come and meet new people.** For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training continues – this week 13th/14th March Monday 10am – 12:30pm and Tuesday 6:30pm – 8:30pm via Zoom – on Development of the Child and Adolescent. This training is for new Catechists or those on Provisional Authorisation cards. Next week the topic will be Classroom Management.

If you are available on Wednesday or Friday mornings during school terms and love being with children, consider joining this worthwhile ministry: talk to myself, one of our Catechists or any of our priests. Training, a Teacher's Manual and workbooks are provided free.

God bless, Miriam Brown <u>srearcadia@gmail.com</u> Parish Catechist Coordinator



CLEAN UP

Thank you to all who were involved in helping cleaning on Sunday after Mass! Wow what a difference and what great help!!! Special thanks goes to:

Robin Barbara

Rosie Sakkal

The Azzi boys

The Sakkal boys

Paul El-Chaar





STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are all invited to Stations of the Cross for prayer, reflection and meditation on Christ's Passion inside the Parish Church every:

Wednesday mornings 9am

Friday nights 6.30pm

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

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



DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc.

Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

(That's Sr Mary in the yellow helmet and one of the crew. She boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse etc she is onto it.)

Cheers, Cathy Holling Ph: 0403 062 255





DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN

Are you considering a vocation to the Priesthood? Join us at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd for a special retreat from the 24 – 26 of March and take this opportunity to really focus on listening to God. Hear talks from inspiring speakers, spend time in personal prayer, receive the sacraments, spend time in adoration, and get spiritual guidance and Q&A with seminarians. Come and be inspired by the gentle and loving initiative of God and accept the invitation to respond with courage! #VocationRetreat #Priesthood #SeminaryOfTheGoodShepherd.

Seminary of the Good Shepherd

March 24 - 26, 2023

To register contact the Broken Bay Vocations Office on 0418 522 449 or email

vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME



(02) 9481 2600 www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/volunteer

JUST ONE HOUR A FORTNIGHT REQUIRED

Would you like to volunteer for an organisation with exceptional values? Are you passionate about achieving positive outcomes for seniors?

We're seeking volunteers for our Community Visitors Scheme (you do not have to be Catholic or religious at all to volunteer).

Our volunteers have flexibility to choose a day and time that suits them, we just ask for a commitment of at least one hour per fortnight. As a volunteer you will visit seniors in a local aged care facility or in their own home and help improve their quality of life.

Affectionately referred to as CatholicCare's 'friendship program', you will be able to build new connections and positive relationships with someone who will greatly appreciate your company. The time will be spent having a cuppa, going on outings, reading together, listening to music, playing games and other activities. Please visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/volunteer/ for more information.

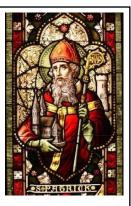
Saint Patrick, Bishop

C. 387 – 393 (actual dates are uncertain)

Feast Day: March 17

Patron Saint of Ireland

Patrick was born in Roman-ruled Britain to loving parents, perhaps as an only child. His father was a senator and a deacon, and his grandfather was a married priest. Despite his Christian upbringing and the clerical influences of his father and grandfather, Patrick struggled with his faith, stating later that when he was young he "did not know the true God." This testimony, and the quotes to follow, come from his own hand, preserved in his *Confession*, Saint Patrick's short autobiographical confession about the workings of God's grace in his life and ministry.



At the age of sixteen, Patrick's life took a dramatic turn for the worse; at least, that's how it first appeared. Gaelic slave traders from Ireland arrived by ship and raided Patrick's village. Though young women and children were often their preferred targets, a young, healthy boy could also profit them. Patrick was captured and "was taken into captivity in Ireland with many thousands of people." At the time of Patrick's captivity, Ireland was a pagan country made up of more than a hundred small, family-based clans governed by local chiefs. Most clans united with other clans to form several larger kingdoms. Their religious beliefs were a mixture of polytheism, in which gods were honored and called upon, and animism, in which the natural world was believed to contain spirits who could be communicated with. Their druids (priests) engaged in demonic spells, incantations, curses, and dark magic.

It was Patrick's conviction that, because he and his fellow slaves had drawn away from God and did not keep God's precepts, the Lord brought down upon them the "fury of his being," permitting them to be scattered throughout Ireland as slaves. But God's just punishments are always inflicted upon his children for the purpose of converting their hearts, which is exactly what happened to Patrick. "And there the Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief, in order that, even so late, I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God, Who had regard for my insignificance and pitied my youth and ignorance."

While in captivity, Patrick was made a swineherd for one of the clans and spent much of his time in the forests, enduring the snow, ice, and rain. But his time alone, experiencing the suffering and loneliness of captivity, greatly benefited his soul. At first, Patrick didn't know God. Then, he began to think about God. Then he began to speak to God. Within six years, he was praying a hundred prayers every day and a hundred prayers every night. As a result, Patrick testified that "the Spirit was burning in me at that time." After receiving chastisements from God for his lack of faith, Patrick's heart was changed and filled with gratitude for all that God had done in his soul. He realized that his only "way to repay Him is to exalt Him and confess His wonders before every nation under heaven."

Once Patrick had converted, God's plan for his life changed. While asleep one night, Patrick heard a voice say to him, "Soon you will depart for your home country," and shortly afterward, "Behold, your ship is ready." By an intuition of grace, Patrick knew what he had to do. He escaped and ran 200 miles (about 184 modern miles). God directed him on the way and led him to a ship where Patrick convinced the captain to let him board. Three days later, they were back in Britain on a remote shore. Patrick and some pagans disembarked from the ship and began a twenty-eight-day journey through the wilderness to find civilization. On the journey, the pagans mocked Patrick's faith, but when they ran out of food, Patrick prayed and God miraculously provided them with a herd of pigs. The pagans were impressed and Patrick won their respect. This was the first of many times that God used Patrick to change hardened hearts. Then, Patrick was reunited with his parents at last.

Back in Britain, Patrick continued to pray, study Scripture, and learn the Catholic faith. His prayer led him into deep union with God. He had dreams and visions, including a vision in which he heard the voice of the Irish say to him, "We beg you, holy youth, that you shall come and shall walk again among us." Patrick knew that he had to return, not as a slave, but as a missionary. Despite opposition from his family, Patrick was determined to answer God's call.

Since Patrick had learned much about Irish culture and language, he was an ideal candidate for missionary work. After years of study, probably in France, he was ordained a bishop and sent by the Church back to Ireland to convert the pagans, his captors, to Christ. And that he did. It was by the courageous witness of his character, aided perhaps by miraculous signs and unwavering faith, that one of the kings converted. After being successful in one kingdom, Bishop Patrick moved to another. When he arrived in a new territory, he always sought to convert the local king and chiefs first. Once they were open to the Gospel, the people followed.

During the fewer than thirty years that Patrick evangelized the people of Ireland, he endured many hardships, including another short captivity, the constant danger of being killed, and staunch opposition from the druid spiritual leaders. But he also converted countless pagans, baptized and confirmed "so many thousands," built churches, established religious life, ordained native clergy, and changed pagan Ireland as a whole into one of the greatest Catholic nations on earth.

Saint Patrick's influence on Ireland was so profound that many later biographers have attributed numerous legends to him. Though most of these legends cannot be verified, the stories highlight the remarkable spiritual transformation of a hostile pagan nation by the faith and courage of one man. God humbled Patrick, changed his heart, set him on fire, and then used that fire to purify many thousands of people. In the centuries that followed, those converts went forth to the ends of the earth, bringing the same Gospel to others that Patrick first preached to them.

Saint Patrick, you were captured and made a slave. God used that captivity to change your heart and draw you to Himself. Once converted, you chose to become a holy slave of Christ, bringing His saving message to a hostile and pagan land. Please pray for me, that I may imitate your conversion and place myself at the service of the will of God. Saint Patrick, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

18/3/2023 to 19/3/2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Margaret B	Judy H	Leon J
Reader2	Miriam B	Teresa G	Adam J
Prayers	Maria G	Paula E	Lorna B
TV		Nigel M	Mirko J
Music		Mark Q	Mark Q
Music		Theresa N	Keith W
Music		Helen F	Martina J
Music			
Morning Tea		Lila B	
FLOWERS	NOT DURING LENT		

Parish Roster



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

If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help:

Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Parish Administrator: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB

Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com

After hours: 0437 884 233

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159
Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

MONASTERY: 9653 1159

Like us on Facebook

BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:

CBA—Catholic Development Fund

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