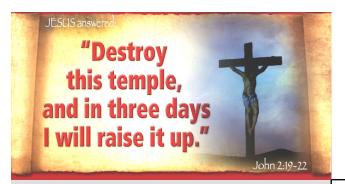
St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 2 & 3 MARCH 2024

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

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

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7:00pm Mass & Confession (Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am
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



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

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.*

SELF REFLECTION: CLEANSING

Sundays' Gospel, **John 2:13-25**, Jesus cleansed the temple. He signed his death warrant when he cast commerce out of the temple. He stood up for the truth about God and about religion and the poor, as the business people of the temple were exploiting the poor with high prices.

Sacredspace.com

- How can I cleanse myself?
- How can I remove distractions from my life?
- What are some things that Jesus may not be happy with me doing?
- Is there sin in my life where confession is needed?
- How can I strengthen myself?

CREATE IN ME A PURE HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A STEADFAST SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

PSALM 51:10

Lord our God, Your son, Jesus, expressed his anger at abuses and injustice. Help us to show concern, not apathy, for injustice in our world, and teach us to make right all that may be wrong. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the book of Exodus The Law was given through Moses.

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-

grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Jews ask for a sign Greeks seek for wisdom 1 Coriethaus 1.32

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: John 2:13-25 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that

believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Third Sunday in Lent, March 3
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19:8-11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24)

The words roll off our tongues so easily. Of course Jesus is God's wisdom and power! He's the Son of God, after all. But what do these words mean? Today's readings can help us.

First, there's Jesus as the *wisdom* of God. The story of the Ten Commandments in the first reading shows us that God's commands are nothing more—and nothing less—than a revelation of his own divine wisdom. They reveal how he wants his children to live: by loving God and one another. This is the wisdom that Jesus lived out perfectly. In everything he said and did, he showed us what it is like to love God completely and to pour ourselves out in love for the people around us. And nowhere is this revealed more powerfully than when he laid down his life on the cross!

As for Jesus being the *power* of God, what could be more astounding than his promise in today's Gospel to rebuild the "temple of his body" after three days (John 2:21)? Imagine the kind of power it took for Jesus' crucified, lifeless flesh to come back to life! Imagine the power that transformed his body into something radiant and glorious! *That* was a work that only God, by his own mighty power, could do!

These are not just historical facts. The power and wisdom of God are present today—and they're yours in Christ! Every act of love, forgiveness, and generosity that you perform demonstrates his wisdom to a world lost in folly. Every time you pray in confident intercession, every time you rely on God's grace to say no to temptation, and every time you lay down your life to care for someone, you are revealing the power of God.

That's right. You can be God's revelation to this world!

"Jesus, fill me with your wisdom and power so that I can share it with everyone around me!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MARCH

Monday 4 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?

St Casimir

Tuesday 5 Readings: Dan 3:25, 34-43. Mt 18:21-35.

R: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Wednesday 6 Readings: Deut 4:1, 5-9. Mt 5:17-19.

R: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

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

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

Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs

Friday 8 Readings: Hosea 14:2-10. Mk 12:28-34.

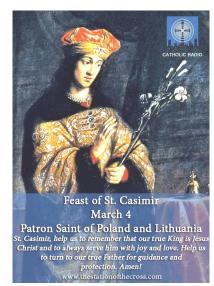
R: I am the Lord, your God; hear my voice.

St John of God, religious

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

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

St Frances of Rome, religious



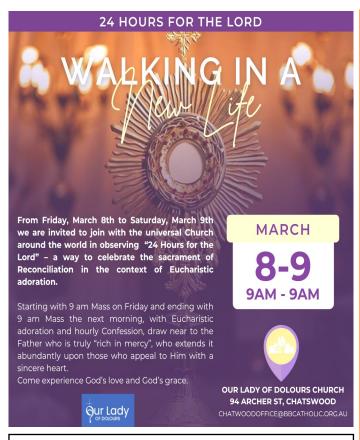
Source: Ordo 2024

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2024



FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



FATHER ALBERIC IN NURSING HOME

Our dear Father Alberic has been moved to a nursing home in respite for a month. He would love to see visitors! If anyone would like to visit him he is at:

Our Lady of Grace Nursing Home 454 Old Northern Road, Dural.

GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOC. (GCEA)

Coffee morning for an hour will be held at the Galston Public High School where **Paul El-Chaar** teaches scripture.

Tuesday 5th March 9.30am to 10.30am

It would be great to see a few people from our parish attending supporting Paul.

Please RSVP to Paul El-Chaar on 0408 277 718 if you would like to attend.



ST BENEDICT'S COUNTRY FETE



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 7 APRIL 10AM TO 3PM

If any local businesses or entrepreneurs would like to hold a stall please let us know.

We need donations of **fresh flowers** on the **day before the fete** please.

Also we are looking for someone to help the children with colouring-in table.

We are still in need of good quality items. Loose items need to be in boxes. Unwanted gifts too.

We also need **NEW gifts** for chocolate wheel.

Raffle tickets are now available to collect at both entries of the church. If you wish to have more please call Tania call on: 0401 597 278

We have fantastic prizes this year! We appreciate all the parishioners and local shops who donated the gifts. Also we would like to thank in advance all the parishioners who will help sell the tickets!

First Prize: Two nights accommodation including

breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal

Pacific.

Second Prize: Dyson V15 Detect Absolute vacuum

stick. Includes 2 cleaner heads, 6

tools & accessories.

Third Prize: Man suit valued at \$600 from

Hornsby Tailor.

Fourth Prize: Dyson Pure Cool fan TP00

(White/Silver).

Fifth Prize: Dyson Supersonic Origin Hair Dryer Sixth Prize: 2 x tickets for a Tall Ship Brunch

Cruise with drinks for 2 hours leaving

from the Rocks, Sydney.

Seventh Prize: Bunnings gift card \$200

Tickets are \$3.00 each, \$30 per book.

The raffle will be drawn at 2pm at the Fete Sunday, 7TH April 2024. Good Luck!

Next Fete meeting date: Tues 19th March 7.15pm.

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 Helen Facione, Joe Gatt, Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, May they rest in Peace.



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



JUTRISA FAMILY

Thank you for Martina singing, Mirko doing the readings as well as chairperson for the Finance Committee, Leon and Adam for the prayers of the faithful, readings and TV powerpoint. You do so much for us it is greatly appreciated. God bless you in all you do for our parish!

Who would you like to nominate for next week? Please let us know so we can acknowledge their kindness.

LENTEN GROUP

Lenten Group is held during Lent for everyone encouraging our community to make Lent much more meaningful and spiritual. Reflecting on God's Word together and applying the Sunday readings to daily life. Seeking God together and praying for one another.



Commencing Wednesday 21st February at 7pm (until Good Friday)

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

Program led by Gebran Azzi.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RESUMES

For those already enrolled First Reconciliation Classes begin:

Classes have now commenced:

Group 1 MONDAYS:

February 19 2024 until 11th March 2024 – 4.15pm to 5.15pm

Group 2 WEDNESDAYS:

Wednesdays 21 February 2024 until 13th March 2024 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm

First Reconciliation on: Saturday 16th March 2024 – 9.00am







(our next Sacramental Program will be announced in May, commencing with Confirmation, students in year 3).

Confirmation Cucharist Reconciliation

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Thank you to those who have enquired about becoming Catechists. It is wonderful to see the support we have from the parish for this worthwhile ministry! We look forward to welcoming our new Catechists over the coming weeks.

This year we are teaching just under 190 students in the five local public primary schools — Arcadia, Galston, Glenorie, Hillside and Middle Dural.

Please continue to pray for our students and Catechists throughout the year.

God bless,

Miriam Brown

srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

WATCH THIS SPACE!

We are excited to announce that St Benedict's Youth group for **8-11yr olds** is in the pipeline!

Our anticipated start is April/May. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Volunteers aged 14-16yrs who would like to assist us please let Father Shansana know.

Thank you to the **Rizkallah family** who have donated the basketball stand and ring as well as the **Volpato family** donating the table tennis. Also for **Mary & Benigna Cascun** for the new rackets and ball. It is very much appreciated! God bless your families!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday mornings 9am Friday nights 6.30pm

You are all invited to Stations of the Cross inside the Parish Church every Wednesday morning 9am and Friday nights 6:30pm for prayer, reflection and meditation on Christ's Passion.



CRAFT GROUP



The quilting group will meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room. Everyone welcome!

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

Wednesday morning: after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

Come and meet new people and have a cuppa! For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano on 9653 2312.







Saint Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Feast Day: March 7

Saint Perpetua: c. 182–203
Patron Saint of cattle and martyrs

Saint Felicity: Unknown–203

Patron Saint of martyrs, help to have male children, and widows

Reflection: The first records of martyrdom in North Africa took place in 180 when twelve Christians were tried and put to death for their faith. After those first martyrs, the Christian faith in North Africa grew stronger and new converts became commonplace. In an attempt to slow the growth of Christianity, Roman Emperor Septimius Severus issued a decree forbidding subjects of the Roman Empire to convert. If they did, they were given the opportunity to renounce their faith and honor the Roman gods. If they refused, they were put to death. In 203, five catechumens preparing for baptism were arrested in the Roman city of Carthage (modern-day Tunisia). Among those catechumens were the two martyrs we honor today.

Vibia Perpetua was a twenty-two-year-old married noblewoman at the time of her arrest. She was also a mother, having recently given birth to a son whom she was still nursing. Her father was a pagan, but her mother and a brother were baptized Christians. A second brother was preparing for baptism alongside Perpetua, and a third brother had already died as a pagan. Perpetua had been touched by Christ and decided to become a Christian, but she was arrested before her baptism. Her pagan father came to her in prison and pleaded with her to renounce the Christian faith and refuse baptism to save her life so she could raise her son. Perpetua records that conversation as follows: "Father, do you see this vessel lying here to be a little pitcher, or something else? Can it be called by any other name than what it is?' And he said, 'No.' 'Neither can I call myself anything else than what I am, a Christian'" (*Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*). A few days later, Perpetua was secretly baptized in prison.

While in prison, Perpetua's heart yearned for her baby. To her joy, the infant was brought to her so she could nurse him. When that happened, she said, "My prison suddenly became a palace to me and I would rather have been there than anywhere else."

Felicity, a slave, was also a young woman and pregnant at the time of her arrest. One eyewitness stated, "Felicity had feared that she might not be allowed to suffer with the rest, because pregnant women were not sent into the arena. However, she gave birth in the prison to a daughter whom one of their fellow Christians at once adopted."

When these brave women stood before their judge, Perpetua's father showed up with her baby, pleading with her to renounce Christ, save her life, and be there for her son. The judge also encouraged her: "Spare your father's white hairs. Spare the tender years of your child. Offer sacrifice for the prosperity of the emperors." Perpetua refused. When asked directly if she were a Christian, she responded, "Yes, I am." At that, her father violently inserted himself into the situation but was struck by the guard. When Perpetua saw this, her heart broke. She later recounted, "I felt this as if I myself had been struck, so deeply did I grieve to see my father treated thus in his old age." The judge passed sentence and all were condemned to death by wild beasts. Still, they were filled with great joy as they returned to their prison. After the sentencing, Perpetua was no longer allowed to see her baby boy.

On the day of their martyrdom, Perpetua and Felicity walked to the arena with heads high and joyful spirits. With them were Revocatus, a fellow slave with Felicity, and two freemen, Saturninus and Secundulus. The men were sent into the arena first to be devoured by a leopard, a wild boar, and a bear. Saturnius was the last standing. When a second leopard attacked and blood poured out, the crowd cried out, "He is well baptized now!"

Perpetua and Felicity were then placed in the arena, and a wild cow was let loose as a way of mocking them as nursing mothers. The beast gravely wounded them but did not kill them, so an executioner was dispatched. Perpetua cried out to her brother, "Stand fast in the faith, and love one another. Do not let our sufferings be a stumbling block to you." She then noticed the fear in the eyes of the executioner so she guided his sword to her neck and the young women received their eternal reward.

Perpetua and Felicity were both new young mothers at the time of their martyrdom. They loved their newborn babies with tender love. But they also loved their God Whom they had both recently come to know. They were forced to choose. Either reject Christ and be there to raise their babies or remain Christian and leave their babies. With heroic courage and faith, they remained true to both. They remained faithful to Christ, dying as martyrs, and they fulfilled their greatest motherly duty by giving heroic witnesses of faith to their babies. We can only hope that as their children grew and were told the stories of their mothers' love of God, those children were inspired and sought to imitate their mothers' Christian faith.

Place yourself in that same situation. Would you have had the courage to face death? Would you be able to stay true to your profession of faith under such extreme emotional and familial pressures? Pray to these saintly mothers and be reminded that the greatest gift we can pass onto others is the witness of our faith in Christ. Life is empty unless Christ is loved and professed, and death loses its sting when our lives are Christ's.

Prayer: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, you loved your infants and you loved your God. By embracing martyrdom for your faith, you gave the greatest witness possible to your children. Please pray for me, that I will never shy away from living my faith openly in a hostile world and that I will be a holy witness of God's most pure love to all. Saints Perpetua and Felicity, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

FETE STALL HOLDERS—PLEASE CHECK TO SEE WHERE YOU CAN HELP			
STALL	VOLUNTEER		
BBQ	Andrew Sakkal 0419 333 134		
Drinks	Paul Camilleri 04403116987		
Fruit and veggies	Cassie		
Cake	Bernadette Watt and Amal Shaheen 0409297740		
Coffee truck Pop corn Slushy Hot dog Fairy Floss	Ramza Saliba 0414 391 303		
Devonshire Tea	Leonie Miller 8850 6456		
Lollies jar	Tyrone and Paul 0408 277 718		
Plants	Judy Horton 0419 604 701		
Trash and Treasure (secondhand toys and any good, donated items + book)	Mary Abood 0416261994 Daniel and Mandah Vella		
Resin Cheese Board making	Theresa Neely 0447425077		
Chocolate Wheel	David Camilleri (info@camhaul.com.au)		
Raffle	Tania Tassone & Liz Wallace 0401597278		
Fire truck	Arcadia - Tom		
Flower	Jessie Guiana		
Parousia Media PTY LTD	Charbel Raish		
Colour in table	STILL NEED VOLUNTEER		
Face painting	Andrew and Tania Sakkal		
Rides	Andrew Sakkal		

PROJECT COMPASSION



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u> or by calling 1800 024 413. *Photo: Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia*

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

9/3/2024 TO 10/3/2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

	Saturday 7.00pm	Sunday 9.00am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Kathryn S	Judy H	Michael E
Reader2	Miriam B	Kath M	Lorna B
Prayers	Margaret B	Rebecca R	Teresa G
TV		Roderick R	Mary A
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Theresa N	Keith W
Music		Pauline H	Don R
Music		Marisa Q	Christian R
Morning Tea		Sophie/Andrea	
FLOWERS	NO FLOWERS DURING LENT		

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

If anyone would like to join our parish roster

please contact the parish office.



ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

SISTER WENDY

2nd March 2008 - 16 years

Congratulations and best wishes on the Anniversary of your Religious profession commitment.

The parish of St Benedict's give thanks to the Lord for Sister Wendy's vocation and her faithful commitment to the Lord. May God continue to bless and accompany you to be a wonderful instrument in proclaiming His mercy and love.

DRAFT ROSTER

DRAFT ROSTER IS NOW OUTSIDE OF SACRISTY WINDOW

PLEASE CHECK YOUR NAMES

KINDNESS

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

Mark Twain

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The parish is looking to make the parish bulletin available electronically. The print version will still remain.

If you are interested in receiving the parish bulletin via email, please provide your email address to the parish office via:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

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@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Priest: 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.