

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

10 & 11 DECEMBER 2022

PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10am to 11am
Adoration & Confession
(Reconciliation)

*(Next Saturday 17th December only
Adoration is from 9am to 10am)*

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Let us pray:

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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: EXPECTATIONS

Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist has been waiting for the Messiah and sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the One he has been waiting for. Jesus responds that the people should look at the signs of healing, raising from the dead and the bringing of the Good News. (Matthew 11:2-11)

- *Do I have faith in Jesus?*
- *Do I notice God's presence in the world today?*
- *This advent are my eyes open to others in need?*
- *If I do not see positive signs, do I look again or look differently?*
- *Do I sometimes wonder if Jesus is the One we were expecting or do I just act and follow the One we know to be our Lord and Christ?*

*Dear Lord,
In my moments of doubt and darkness, may my eyes only see You. Help me to notice Your presence everywhere I may go, with my eyes open to others in need. Help me follow You on your path to eternal life. Amen.*

First Reading**Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Lord, come and save us.****Second Reading****James 5:7-10 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL**Matthew 11:2-11 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 11

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Psalm 146:6-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come? (Matthew 11:3)

Do you ever have doubts? Everyone does, even John the Baptist. Herod had thrown John into prison and kept the threat of execution hanging over him. Sitting in that cell, John began to wonder if he had labored for nothing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3).

Why would John ask such a pointed question? Probably because Jesus' ministry didn't fit John's idea of what God's kingdom should look like. Unlike John, Jesus wasn't a fire-and-brimstone preacher. He seemed more concerned with healing sick people than with overthrowing Herod. He wasn't popular with many Jewish leaders either. So doubts about Jesus began to creep in.

Rather than rebuking John's disciples, Jesus described his ministry: the sick are healed, the dead are raised, and the poor hear the good news (Matthew 11:2). John's disciples would have recognized these as signs of the Messiah foretold by Isaiah (35:6).

Jesus wasn't put off by John's doubts. Quite the opposite, he praised John as the greatest of all those "born of women" (Matthew 11:11). Jesus knew John; he loved him and understood the trial he was enduring. Knowing what John was going through, he treated him with compassion. And he will do the same for you.

You may have doubts. Bring them to Jesus. Ask him to help you recall his work in your life: when you experienced his forgiveness, knew his love, or felt his presence. Let him reassure you that he knows you and loves you. Let him strengthen your faith. As Isaiah proclaims in another prophecy, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out" (Isaiah 42:3). With his love, Jesus can set your doubts to rest and fan your smoldering faith into a blazing fire.

"Jesus, help me to believe in you more and more each day."

(Source: Word Among Us India Dec22-Jan23 Pg 11)

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 12 Readings: Num 24:2-7, 15-17. Mt 21:23-27.

R: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Tuesday 13 Readings: Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13. Mt 21:28-32.

R: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

St Lucy, virgin, martyr.

Wednesday 14 Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-26. Lk 7:19-23.

R: Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a saviour.

St John of the Cross, priest, doctor.

Thursday 15 Readings: Is 54:1-10. Lk 7:24-30.

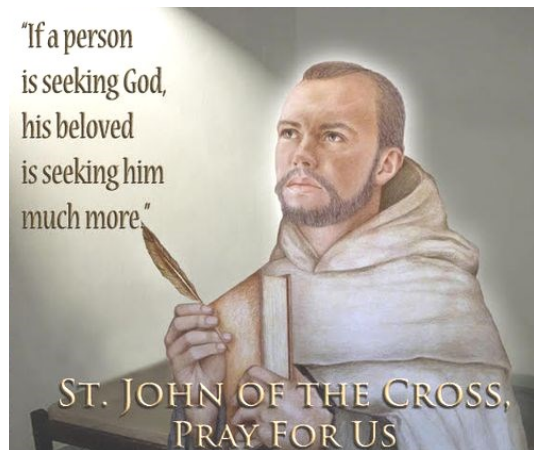
R: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Friday 16 Readings: Is 56:1-3, 6-8. Jn 5:33-36.

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Saturday 17 Readings: Gen 49:2, 8-10. Mt 1:1-17.

R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.



Source: Ordo 2022

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2022

VOLUNTEER AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. Amen.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To apply oneself frequently to prayer.

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

It's that time of year again when we reach out to our generous community to help the marginalised in our area to have a happier Christmas. We are looking for donations in the envelopes and also **Christmas hamper items, food and toiletries**. Please leave hamper donations in the baskets at both entry doors.



MEMORIAL MASS

You are all invited to the Memorial Mass for

Emanuele Monardo

10:30am on Sunday 18th December 2022

Here at St Benedict's Church, Arcadia

May baby Jesus and Mother Mary bless you all.

Sincerely, Teresa Monardo & Family."



THANK YOU

Thank you to the volunteers who put up the Advent Wreath, the Christmas tree and the Nativity. Your help is always appreciated!

PIETY & CAKE STALL

Piety and cakes stall will be on this weekend 10th & 11th December and next weekend 17th & 18th December only. At all the masses. Also FINAL tickets for raffles will be available.

PIETY GIFTS

**GINGER BREAD: HOUSES, TREES & TRAINS
COOKIES
CAKES**

All proceeds goes to the parish fundraising.



CHRISTMAS ROSTER



CHRISTMAS BLANK ROSTER
DISPLAYED ON SACRISTY
WINDOW.

PLEASE HELP BY ADDING
YOUR NAME.

2023 COLUMBAN CALENDAR



NOW AVAILABLE \$10 EACH

Now available at the Church Sacristy entry. Thank you for your support which has enabled Columban's to provide hope for the poorest of people where Columban's missionaries work.

In Our Parish

We welcome into God's family, all who were recently baptised, especially Heidi Cascun.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Brother Mario and Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum).

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, may they Rest in Peace.



PARISH FUNDRAISER

FINAL WEEK!

Raffle tickets are available for fundraising for the parish.

\$5 per ticket: iPad, blowdryer & hampers prizes
\$50 per ticket: Calf prize

Drawn Sunday 18th December 2022.

After the 9am Mass

To purchase tickets you can use the Tap'N'Go or cash.

Tickets are available from:
*Lila, Robin, Rosie, Nerida, Mary A,
and Paula (parish office).*

Please help support our beautiful parish.

Prizes include:

- A Calf donated by the Monastery
- Apple IPAD
- Blow-dryer and hair care package
- Gift Hampers

GATECHIST NEWS

A big thanks to all those involved in the Children's Mass last week!

As the SRE (Scripture) lessons are now over for the year, I would like to thank all Catechists for the wonderful work done over the year. Thank you for your commitment in teaching the children God's Word and message and showing God's love in being present in the classroom each week. I would like to especially thank those who took on extra classes when Catechists were away. Wishing all a well-deserved and enjoyable holiday break!

Being a Catechist is a very rewarding ministry! As we have a few Catechists retiring this year and some stepping back from full time teaching, if anyone is interested in being a Catechist or helper for next year, please contact me or talk to Fr Shansana or Paula in the parish office.

God bless,
Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Coordinator



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday Vigil

Saturday 24th Dec 2022: 7pm
11.30pm (Midnight Mass)



CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th Dec 2022: 9am & 10.30am (Latin)

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Friday 30th Dec 2022: 7pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

Saturday 31st Dec 2022: 7pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God

Sunday 1st Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

EPIPHANY VIGIL

Saturday 7th Jan 2023: 7pm

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday 8th Jan 2023: 9am & 10.30am
4.30pm (Latin Mass)

FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday 9th Jan 2023: 9.30am

MONASTERY:

Daily as usual 7am



"Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

- 3rd (Saturday) ONE DAY MALAYALAM RETREAT**
10:00am - 2:30pm
- 9th-11th (Fri-Sun) ADVENT RETREAT**
with Fr. Roni George VC and Fr. Joby Varghese VC
"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." *John 1:14*
Friday 5:30pm - Sunday 4:00pm
- 15th (Thursday) SPIRITUAL RETREAT at St Peter Claver Church, ADELAIDE**
7:00pm - 9:00pm, 8 Stuart Road, Dulwich, Adelaide, SA 5065
- 17th (Saturday) SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT ST JAMES, MUSWELLBROOK**
9:30am - 3:00pm, 65 Brook Street, Muswellbrook
- 18th (Sunday) ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE (LAST SUNDAY RETREAT)**
9:00am - 4:00pm
with Fr. Roni George VC and Fr. Joby Varghese VC
• Praise and Worship • Preaching The Word • Eucharistic Adoration • Holy Mass
- 19th (Monday) SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT ST. PATRICK WALLSEND**
7:00pm - 9:00pm, 11 Macquarie St, Wallsend 2287
- 31st NEW YEAR'S EVE**
with Fr. Roni George VC and Fr. Joby Varghese VC
8.30pm-12.00am
(• Confession • Rosary • Praise and Worship • Thanksgiving Adoration • New Year's Mass)



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,
Tel: 02 4372 1598, email drccsydney@gmail.com
• www.divineretreatcentre.org • www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

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.

**(Last meeting of the year Wednesday 21/12/2022.
Recommence Wednesday 4/1/2023).**



ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.



VOX POPULI - VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

3rd Week of ADVENT - JOY

During the season of Advent there are a number of feast days including two feast days dedicated to Mary.

In some countries the month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Other feast days we have already celebrated are St Francis Xavier on 3 December, St John Damascene on 4 December, and St Ambrose on 7 December.

On 8 December, we celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception or Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This celebrates the belief that Mary was conceived free of original sin and lived a sinless life. It is one of the most important feasts celebrated by the Catholic Church.

Some people may confuse this day with the Feast of the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she was carrying the Son of God, but that feast day takes place nine months before Christmas on 25 March.

Since 2001 in Australia the Feast of the Immaculate Conception has not been a holy day of obligation. The only feast days to be observed as holy days of obligation are Christmas Day, the Feast of the Assumption and all Sundays of the year, however it is a Solemnity many people attend Mass on this day.

On Monday, 12 December we celebrate another feast day of Mary - the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1910 Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of Latin America, and in 1945 Pope Pius XII declared her to be the Empress of all the Americas. She appeared to an Indian convert named Juan Diego on 9 December 1531, and left a portrait of herself on the mantle of Juan Diego. This miraculous image has proved to be ageless and is kept in the shrine built in her honour, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

During this time of Advent when we are preparing for the coming of the Christ Child, we can offer a prayer of intercession to Mary to spiritual strength, remembering her preparation and prayerfulness was complete in every respect.

Source: BBNeighbourhoods

ADVENT to CHRISTMAS

Concert-Reflection
with Peter Kearney

"Spiritually uplifting.
Perfect for leading us
into the true meaning
of Christmas".
(Janelle Towells)



Peter Kearney is the
composer of
'Fill My House',
'The Beatitudes' and
several titles in the
'As One Voice' hymnal

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

4.00-5.10pm

OUR LADY OF DOLOURS CHURCH

94 Archer Street

CHATSWOOD



Free Admission
Peter's CDs and DVDs will be available.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST DAY OF Our Lady of Guadalupe

PATRONESS OF UNBORN CHILDREN

Mass with
Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay

7:00pm Monday 12 December 2022
Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church
94 Archer Street Chatswood

*With a special blessing for
expectant mothers and those wishing
to conceive a child.*



Saint Lucy of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr

c. 283—304

Feast Day: December 13



Patron Saint of virgins, the blind, and Syracuse, Sicily

A garden enclosed, no man would lock her in his embrace

Today's saint is one of only eight women (Mary included) commemorated in Eucharistic Prayer I: "Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia, and all the Saints..." It was Pope Saint Gregory the Great (590–604), familiar with the Christian traditions of Sicily through his family, who inserted the names of the Sicilian virgin martyrs, Agatha and Lucy, into the Roman Canon. There is no doubt that an ancient cult to a woman named Lucy is connected with the city of Syracuse, Sicily, and that this devotion spread throughout Europe in the fourth through sixth centuries. Beyond that, however, there is no near-contemporary historical record verifying any facts of Lucy's life or death. It is the preservation of her name in the Mass, more than anything else, which has secured Lucy's place in the Catholic tradition.

Saint Lucy was killed during the Diocletian persecution in the early fourth century. Legends long post-dating her death state that Lucy was doomed to execution after a disgruntled pagan admirer exposed her as a Christian. A gruesome medieval addition holds that Lucy gouged out her own eyes prior to her execution to deter a suitor who delighted in their beauty. Another tradition states that Lucy could not be dragged to her execution site even by a team of oxen, so the guards piled wood all around her to devour her flesh with flames—but the kindling refused to ignite! Frustrated, one of the soldiers then thrust his sharp sword deep into her throat, bringing her brief life to a grisly end.

It is likely that since Lucy was born to Christian parents, she went on pilgrimage as a child to the shrine of Saint Agatha, a fellow Sicilian, in nearby Catania. Perhaps the witness of the virgin martyr Agatha, who perished about fifty years prior to Lucy's time, inspired little Lucy to be similarly heroic when her own hour came. One legend states that Agatha appeared to Lucy in a dream, telling her that one day she, Lucy, would be the glory of Syracuse. For over a millennium, Lucy's Feast Day of December 13 fell very close to the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. But the Gregorian calendar reform of 1582 corrected a ten day drift between the calendar and scientific reality, leaving December 13 now eight days before the Solstice. Lucy's symbolic resonance as a source of light in a dark season persists, despite the calendar correction distancing her feast day from winter's blackest hour. Somewhat curiously, Sweden's long-dormant Catholic heritage reasserts itself on December 13, a long winter night when Swedes gladly celebrate a saint whose Latin name evokes light and purity.


As the age of martyrdom waned with Christianity's legalization, the untouched body of the virgin, not a bloody death, became the most potent expression of Christian sacrifice. The virgin's body was the untouched desert. It bore the wax seal of the soul's original, untarnished perfection and was a precious gift blessed by Christ. The intact flesh of all celibates, virgins, and continent men and women stood out as oases of freedom in a world otherwise enslaved by carnal desire. Virgins such as Lucy were the pride of the early Church, the unplucked harps whose self-control was a cause of wonder to the broader pagan society. The virgin's uncorrupted body was like a human votive candle, its pure flame burning through the long night of the world until Christ slowly dawned over the horizon at His Second Coming. That such a refined blue flame was so abruptly blown out by the executioner's breath was shocking and memorable. We remember it still today.

Saint Lucy, you died young and innocent, unfamiliar with the world save for its savagery. May your double martyrdom, to the flesh and to life itself, inspire all youth to see Christ and His promises as worth sacrificing to attain. Amen.

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

**CHRISTMAS BLANK ROSTER DISPLAYED ON SACRISTY WINDOW
PLEASE HELP BY ADDING YOUR NAME**

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER
17/12/22 to 18/12/22
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul E
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Lorna B
Reader2	Margaret B	Nigel M	Paula E
Prayers	Maria G	Roza N	Matt M
TV		Mary A	Tyrone E
Music		Mark Q	Karina S
Music		Helen F	Noelle T
Music		Theresa N	John T
Music		Marisa Q	
Morning Tea		Teresa G	
 FLOWERS	NO ALTAR FLOWERS DURING ADVENT	Gabe Wall to do flowers on the 24th of December.	

Parish Roster

Thank You!

**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
(During the month of January only opened Fridays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Parish Administrator: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamar-singhe@yahoo.com

After hours: 0437 884 233

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia



MONASTERY: 9653 1159

BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784 Account: 10002141
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.