

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



**13TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
JUNE 27 & 28 2026**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.
O God, who through the grace of adoption
chose us to be children of light,
grant, we pray,
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.
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: SERVE OTHERS

This Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42 Jesus calls me to love Him above all else and to follow Him with a generous and faithful heart. He reminds me that even the smallest act of kindness done in His name has great value. I reflect on whether Christ truly comes first in my life and whether my daily actions reveal His love to others.

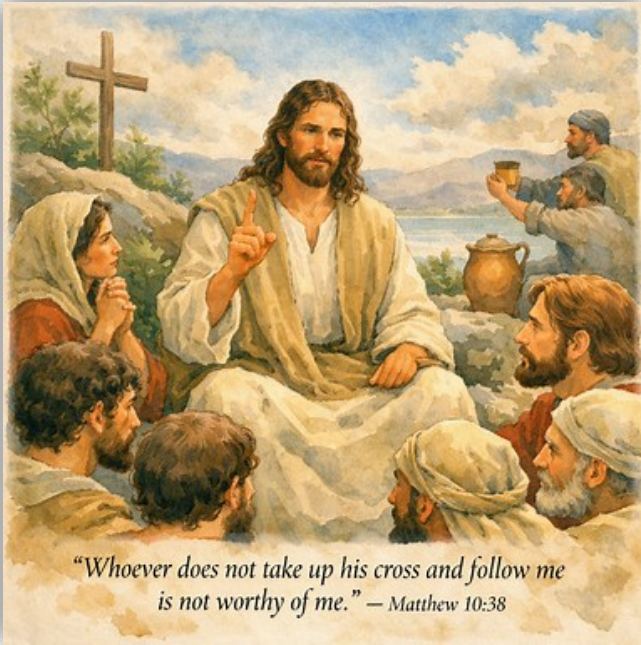
I Reflect...

- *Do I place Jesus at the centre of my life and decisions?*
- *Am I willing to make sacrifices for my faith?*
- *Do I welcome and serve others with generosity and love?*
- *Do I recognise that even small acts of kindness can be great acts of discipleship?*

Serve. Love. Give

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to love You above all else and to follow You each day with faith and courage. Open my heart to serve others with generosity, knowing that every act of kindness offered in Your name brings glory to You. Amen.



*"Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me
is not worthy of me." — Matthew 10:38*

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

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

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays

6:30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession

Saturdays

9:00am to 10:00am
Adoration & Confession

MONASTERY CHAPEL MASS TIMES

Sundays 7:00am
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

Baptisms
Reconciliation
For the Sick
Marriages
Funerals

Parish Priest:
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233
Parish Office 9653 2312



First Reading 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16 (JB)

A reading from the second book of the Kings

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 10:37-42 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



*"This time next year,'
Elisha said
'you will hold a son in
your arms.'"
2 Kings 4:16*



*"Prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may He bring us all together to everlasting life."
(Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4)*

READINGS & GOSPEL REFLECTION

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16 | Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 | Matthew 10:37-42

The Cost and Joy of Discipleship

Today's readings remind us that following Jesus is not simply about believing in Him—it is about making Him the centre of our lives. In the **First Reading**, the woman of Shunem welcomes the prophet Elisha with generous hospitality, and God blesses her kindness beyond her expectations. **St Paul** reminds us that through Baptism we have died and risen with Christ, leaving behind our old way of life so that we may live each day as His faithful disciples.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus teaches that loving Him must come before everything else. While this can sometimes require sacrifice, He also assures us that no act of love is too small to matter. Even offering a cup of cold water in His name is precious in God's sight.

Together, these readings encourage us to welcome Christ into our hearts, live out our baptismal calling, and show His love through simple acts of generosity and service. It is often the small, faithful choices we make each day that become the greatest witness to our faith.

Key Thought:

When we put Christ first, our everyday acts of love become signs of God's presence in the world.

Take-Home Challenge:

This week, make one conscious effort each day to put Christ first—whether through prayer, forgiveness, generosity, or a simple act of kindness—and trust that God will use even the smallest gesture for His glory.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us to follow You. Help us to place You above all else and to live out our baptism each day with faith, generosity, and love. May our lives reflect Your goodness and lead others closer to You. Amen.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

JUNE

Monday 29 Readings: Acts 12:1-11. 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18. Mt 16:13-19.
R: The Lord set me free from all my fears.
Sts PETER and PAUL, Apostles.

Tuesday 30 Readings: Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12.
R: Lead me in your justice, Lord.
First Martyrs of Holy Roman Church.

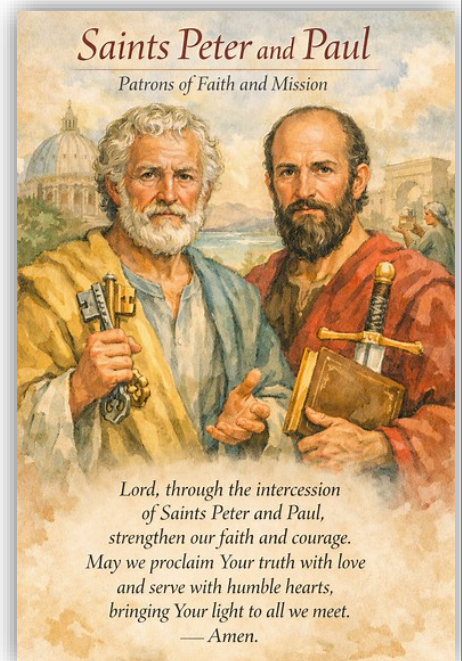
JULY

Wednesday 1 Readings: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24.
R: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

Thursday 2 Readings: Amos 7:10-17. Mt 9:1-8.
R: The judgements of the Lord are true and all of them just.

Friday 3 Readings: Eph 2:19-22. Jn 20:24-29.
R: Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.
St Thomas, apostle.

Saturday 4 Readings: Amos 9:11-15. Mt 9:14-17.
R: The Lord speaks of peace to his people.
St Elizabeth of Portugal.



Source: Ordo 2026

POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2026

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.



PARISH NOTICE

**DRAFT ROSTER IS NOW AT SACRISTY WINDOW.
PLEASE CHECK AS IT'S THE FINAL WEEKEND.**

If you would like to be added to any ministry please let Melanie know (our piano player) or Father Shansana. Your help would be appreciated!

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Next weekend 4th & 5th July we join parishes across the world in taking up the Vatican's annual Peter's Pence Collection. The Peter's Pence Collection provides for the charitable works of mercy identified by His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, including emergency assistance to those in need due to natural disaster, war, oppression and disease.

Your generosity allows the Holy Father to respond to those suffering with love and compassion.

You can make a gift using the Peter's Pence collection envelope available in the pews. May God bless your generosity.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Vinnies Winter Appeal has launched in our Parish. We are hoping to collect donations of non-perishable food for our pantry as well as cash donations in the Vinnies envelopes. Any assistance you can give would be hugely appreciated. We will be collecting donations until the end of June.

PIETY SHOP NEWS

Visit our Piety Shop after Mass and browse our beautiful range of religious gifts, prayer books, rosaries, medals, cards, and devotional items.

You'll find meaningful keepsakes for First Holy Communion, Baptism, Confirmation, weddings, and all the sacraments. Whether for yourself or a loved one, there is something special for every occasion.

Thank you for supporting our parish Piety Shop!

VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK

This week's volunteers of the week nomination:

Thank You



RACHAEL ROTON

for your Kindness

Rachael was recently spotted lending a helping hand to her husband, Luke (our current maintenance person, replacing Joe while he is recovering from a foot operation), in the parish grounds, trimming the plants and helping keep our church gardens looking beautiful. Her willingness to quietly serve behind the scenes is greatly appreciated and helps create a welcoming environment for everyone who visits our parish.

Rachael is also a dedicated volunteer in our **Piety Shop**, where she faithfully helps on a regular basis. We are truly grateful for her generosity, cheerful spirit, and the many ways she serves our parish community.

Thank you, Rachael, for all that you do. Your quiet dedication and willingness to help wherever needed are a wonderful example of Christian service. May God bless you always!



ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. For further information and Applications Forms please visit: uacpallottines.au



Union
of Catholic Apostolate

Called by Christ to be his Apostles

Closing Date: Friday 31 July 2026

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:

*Sister Fay, Lucia Bisoglio, Frank Gauci, Joe Gallo, Miriam Brown,
Pauline Honor, Kath Moran, Peter Bellew, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.*

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died:

*Francesco Merlino, Peter Chedid, Antonio Romeo, Nanna Trani, Anne Pearce, Robert Wallace,
~ May they rest in Eternal Peace.*



CATECHIST NEWS

Do you have an hour to spare once a week? Are you interested in Becoming a Catechist?

Short zoom courses are available throughout the year to become certified to teach Scripture at our local public schools. It only requires you to have a Working with Children's check number and love for your Faith. The work is all done for you in a simple to use Teacher's manual, all you need to do is show up each week with a smile on your face and Jesus in your heart!

We are always in need of casual fill-in teachers so please contact me or the Parish office for more information if you are interested!

Thank you to those who turned up for our morning tea on Friday. It was a lovely gathering. Look forward to seeing you at the next gathering.

God bless,
Martina Jutrisa
srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist
Co-Ordinator
0413 403 767
Parish Office: 9653 2312



PARISH FINANCE UPDATE PASTORAL WORKS

To date:

Parish Quota:	\$18,005.00
Payment (parishioner donations):	\$ 5,881.00
Balance we owe Diocese:	\$12,124.00

If you're able to support our Parish Pastoral Works, your donation would be a great help — and it's tax deductible. Contributions made before the end of June can be claimed this financial year.

Thank you for your generosity and care for our parish community.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who brought plates of food for Fr Shansana's birthday celebration last Sunday.

Your generosity and support helped make the celebration very special and are truly appreciated.

Fr Shansana was very grateful.

Working with Children Week

22 - 28 June 2026



Create.Share.Encounter

A Creative Women's Ministry

Please join us for our upcoming
Maker's Table workshop
at St Benedict's!

Wednesday 1st July
7.30-9.30pm

ACRYLIC PAINTING ON CANVAS



Cost: \$15 (covers materials, refreshments and donation for room hire)

RSVP by 30/6/26 so we can set a special place at the Table for you!

www.facebook.com/makerstable/
www.themakersgarden.com.au

Martine Musumeci 0458-533-250
Nerida Woodbury 0425-834-017
themakerstablesydney@gmail.com

ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8-12 years
Our Kids Youth Group is back on Fridays
DURING SCHOOL TERM
4.00pm to 5.30pm

(last session of this term is Friday 26th June
resuming 2nd Friday of term.)



We are in need of adult volunteers to help out.
Please let the parish office know if you are free to help or call Jules on 0415 448 797.

HEALING MASS

Healing Mass is held on the first Thursday of each month at 9.30am

**NEXT HEALING MASS:
THURSDAY 2ND JULY 2026**

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**
Everyone welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.



CCC PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meeting held every
Wednesday morning:
after 9.30am Mass.

*Come and meet new people and
have a cuppa!*

For more details call
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Feast Day: July 4

SAINT ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

c. 1271-1336

Patron Saint of widows, brides, charity workers, those falsely accused, victims of adultery, and the Canary Islands, Spain

**Invoked against jealousy, war, and difficult marriages
Canonized by Pope Urban VIII on June 24, 1625**

Rainha Santa Isabel, or Saint Elizabeth, was the child of King Peter III and Queen Constance of Aragon, Spain. Elizabeth's older brothers would become successive kings of Aragon, Alfonso III and James II. Her namesake was her great-aunt, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

Although Elizabeth enjoyed the privileges of a royal upbringing, her stature did not distract her from her faith. By age eight, she regularly fasted, attended Mass, and prayed the entire Divine Office daily. Unlike other girls, she sought virtue and glory for God rather than indulging in frivolous activities. She used her royal status as a platform for service of the poor, sick, and suffering.

In 1279, Elizabeth's father arranged her marriage to the seventeen-year-old King Denis of Portugal in order to strengthen Spain's political alliance with Portugal. In 1282, twelve-year-old Elizabeth wedded King Denis, becoming Queen Elizabeth of Portugal. Elizabeth showed remarkable grace in the face of her husband's immoral lifestyle and infidelity, treating him with love and fulfilling her duties as queen with humility. They had two children: their daughter, Constance, in 1290, and a year later, their son, Afonso, who would succeed his father as King of Portugal.

Queen Elizabeth's virtuous living stood out in the royal court, and she humbly and lovingly offered to God the ridicule she suffered. As queen, she attended daily Mass, engaged in penance, and prayed the Divine Office. She aided the poor and the sick, personally distributing food and money to those in need at the palace door. When the king grew angry at her generosity, she continued her charitable work secretly. Using her royal position, she constructed monasteries, churches, and hospitals.

The royal family included the king's illegitimate children whom Elizabeth treated with love. Her son, Afonso, however, resented the attention his father paid to the children born out of wedlock. Tensions escalated to the point of war, but Queen Elizabeth rode out to the scene of the battle, kneeling between her husband and son, begging for peace. She successfully reconciled the two, earning the title of "Angel of Peace."

When King Denis died in 1325, Queen Elizabeth retired to a house next to a Poor Clare monastery and joined the Third Order Franciscans. For the next eleven years, she lived in simplicity and poverty, continuing her charitable work and welcoming all who sought her counsel. She again played the role of peacemaker when her son, now King Afonso, initiated a war against his own son-in-law. Shortly thereafter, Elizabeth fell ill and died on July 4, 1336. She was buried in the Convent of Santa Clara that she had founded in Coimbra. Years later, her body was found to be incorrupt. In 1912, medical examiners and Church officials declared that her body remained free of decay, looking as if she were only sleeping.

Saint Elizabeth, you were a queen, but that royal dignity paled in comparison to the saintly virtues you acquired. Please pray that I will imitate your example and seek only those things that are eternal, rejecting the world's fleeting seductions. May I learn from your life of prayer and charity, and discover the peace and joy that you did so that I will give eternal glory to God in Heaven. Saint Elizabeth of Portugal, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

**SAVE THE DATE
ST BENEDICT FEAST DAY
SUNDAY 12 JULY 9AM MASS
FOLLOWED BY FESTIVAL UNTIL 1PM**

We are already looking forward with great excitement to celebrating **the Feast Day of St Benedict Festival on Sunday, 12 July**, with a very special parish celebration!

This will be a wonderful opportunity for our parish community to come together in faith, fellowship and celebration. During this special event, we will also be drawing both our **Major Raffle** and **Calf Raffle**. Tickets for both raffles are still on sale, and we are deeply grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of our parishioners.

There will be plenty to enjoy on the day, including:

- The **Kazzi Family** with their wonderful fresh fruit and veggie pre-pack boxes
- The **Sakkal Family** serving their delicious BBQ
- The **Camilleri Family** running the always-popular Chocolate Wheel
- Piety shop
- Plants
- Coffee/tea
- Gifts and crafts etc.



There will be fun, delicious food, and something for everyone to enjoy.

Please stay tuned for more details about this very special celebration, and be sure to **mark Sunday, 12 July in your calendar**. This will be on RAIN OR SHINE!

Thank you for your continued support of our parish community. We look forward to celebrating together!

CatholicCare
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY



**VACATION CARE
JULY BOOKINGS**

NOW OPEN

VACATION CARE

Need a fun, safe place for the kids these school holidays?

CatholicCare Broken Bay operates Vacation Care services across the Diocese, and enrolments are now open for our July 2026 Vacation Care Program.

Think craft, games, local excursions and new friendships - all wrapped up in a program designed to keep kids busy, curious and smiling. Whatever their age, interests or ability, there's a place for them to try something new, build confidence and create holiday memories, all in a safe and welcoming environment.

Give your family one less thing to plan this break, enrol now at: www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/vacation-care

IGNITE CONFERENCE SYDNEY 2026

Are you looking to deepen your faith, encounter Christ in a new way, and connect with Catholics from across Australia? Then consider attending **Ignite Conference Sydney 2026**, one of Australia's largest Catholic conferences for youth, young adults, families, parishioners, clergy, and ministry leaders.

The conference features inspiring speakers, uplifting worship, the Sacraments, engaging workshops, and opportunities for prayer and fellowship. Whether you are young in age or young at heart, Ignite offers a powerful experience of faith and renewal.

9-12 July 2026

The Light of Christ Centre, Waitara

For more information and registration details, please visit the official Ignite Conference website.

<https://igniteconference.com.au/sydney>

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

4/7/26 to 5/7/26
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul E
Reader1	Mary C	Judy H	Tackhi
Reader2	Natasha S	Volunteer	Takchi
Prayers	Edyn V	Donna B	Takchi
TV		Teresa G	Jonah A
EMHC		Nigel M	Gebran A
EMHC		Sophie R	Sandra M
Music		Melanie H	Karina S
Music		Keith W	Noelle T
Music		Marisa Q	John T
Music			
Morning Tea			
FLOWERS	Hannah A		(Memorial Mass)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge God as our Creator and giver of all life. We also acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.
May we walk together in peace, respect, and unity.

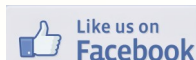
SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

St Benedict's Parish is committed to the safety of all, especially children and vulnerable people. Concerns? Contact Fr Shansana 0437 884 233, or the Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters
Contact: Parish Office 9653 2312

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm
Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia
Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233
Facebook: [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)



MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings
6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds
12.45pm Midday prayer
6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers
8.00pm Night prayer - Compline

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

Commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in October 2026.

Please collect a form from the sacristy office or email the parish for a form. The enrolment form is also available on the website.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS 2026

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life.

We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit our web site:

www.engagedencounter.org.au

Aug 8-9

DID YOU KNOW...

The word deacon comes from the Greek word meaning "servant." Deacons are ordained to serve the Church through works of charity, Word, and liturgy.

MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

PARISH BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141
Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund



Support our parish!
Scan this QR code to make a donation.