

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

25 & 26 OCTOBER 2025

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;  
turn to the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,  
increase our faith, hope and charity,  
and make us love what you command,  
so that we may merit what you promise.  
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: HUMILITY

**"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."**

This Sunday's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14, Jesus reminds us that true prayer comes from a humble heart. The Pharisee boasted of his goodness, but the tax collector simply asked for mercy — and it was he who went home right with God.

Let us pray with humility, not pride, trusting in God's mercy rather than our own goodness.

#### Reflect:

- Do I pray with humility or self-righteousness?
- Do I compare myself with others?
- When have I truly felt my need for God's mercy?
- How can I grow in humility this week?
- What helps me be honest with God in prayer?

# Humble Heart

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, teach me to pray with a humble heart.  
Be merciful to me, a sinner, and fill me with Your peace.  
Amen.

WHOEVER EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE  
**HUMBLLED**  
WHOEVER HUMBLES HIMSELF WILL BE  
**EXALTED**  
LK 18:14

### 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  
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am

Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

### MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

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: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19 (JB)**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.*

The Lord is a judge  
who is no respecter of personages.  
He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man,  
he listens to the plea of the injured party.  
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,  
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.

The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted,  
his petitions will carry to the clouds.  
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,  
until it arrives he is inconsolable,  
nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him,  
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.  
And the Lord will not be slow,  
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

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

**Responsorial Psalm: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.****Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (JB)**

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.*

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;**  
**and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.**  
**Alleluia!**

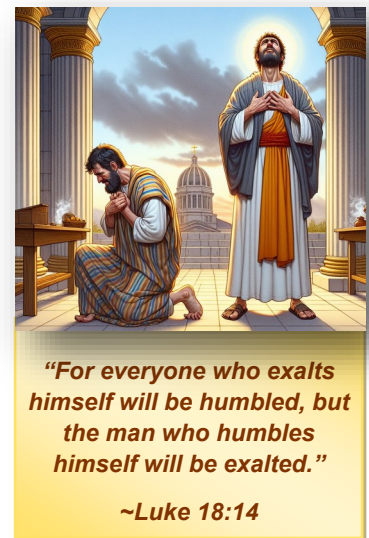
**GOSPEL Luke 18:9-14 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.*

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

**Readings: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19 / Psalm 33 / 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 / Luke 18:9-14**

In today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts two men at prayer — one proud, the other humble. The Pharisee praises himself, while the tax collector quietly asks for mercy. Jesus teaches that it is the humble heart, aware of its need for God, that is truly justified.

Sirach reminds us that God listens not to appearances but to sincerity; He hears the cry of the poor and the oppressed. St Paul, in his letter to Timothy, speaks with confidence and humility about having "fought the good fight," knowing that his strength came from the Lord.

Together, these readings remind us that God values authenticity, humility, and trust more than words or status.

### Key Thought:

**God hears the humble heart.** True prayer is not about what we say, but how honestly we open ourselves before Him.

### Take-Home Challenge:

This week, pray the simple words of the tax collector:

**"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."**

Say it slowly, with honesty — especially when pride or comparison creeps in.

### Prayer:

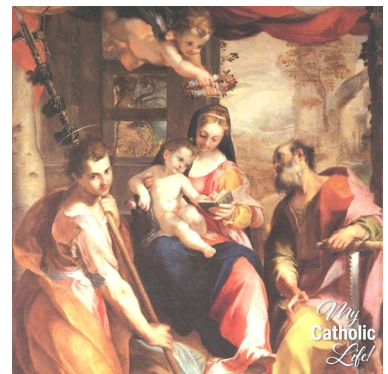
**Lord Jesus, teach me to come before You with a humble and grateful heart. When I am tempted to judge or boast, remind me that all I have is gift. May my life reflect Your mercy and love. Amen.**

Source: chatgpt.com

## WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

### October 2025

- Monday 27: Rom 8:12-17. Lk 13:10-17.  
**R.** Our God is the God of salvation.
- Tuesday 28: Eph 2:19-22. Lk 6:12-19.  
**R.** Their message goes out through all the earth.  
**Sts Simon and Jude, apostles.**
- Wednesday 29: Rom 8:26-30. Lk 13:22-30.  
**R.** All my hope, O Lord, is in your loving kindness.
- Thursday 30: Rom 8:31-39. Lk 13:31-35.  
**R.** Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.
- Friday 31: Rom 9:1-5. Lk 14:1-6.  
**R.** Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.



### Sts Simon & Jude

*Saints Simon and Jude,  
faithful apostles of Christ,  
pray for us and strengthen  
our faith. Amen.*

### November 2025

- Saturday 1: Rom 8:1-11. Lk 13:1-9.  
**R.** Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.  
**ALL SAINTS Solemnity**

Source: Ordo 2025 image: mycatholic.life



### Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for October 2025:

#### For collaboration between different religious traditions

*Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.*



## MEMORIAL MASS

### MARIA PAPPALARDO



#### One month mass

Will be held on Sunday the 26th October 2025  
At the 9:00am mass  
Followed by morning tea. All welcome

*Eternal rest grant to her O Lord  
and let the perpetual light shine upon her  
and may she rest in peace.  
Amen.*

## NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During the month of November, we will be praying the Rosary for all the dearly departed after the 9.30am weekday Masses.

A Book of the Dead will be kept in the Church near the lectern, where parishioners are warmly invited to write the names of their loved ones.

These intentions will be remembered in our prayers throughout the month.

## NEW ROSTER

The next roster is now available for collection in the Sacristy. Please pick up the copy with your name on it.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication!

## ALL SAINTS MASS

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

9am Adoration & Confession

Followed by MASS 9.30am



## HEALING MASS

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

The next Healing Mass will be on Thursday November 6.



# 2025 WORKSHOPS



5 NOVEMBER 2025  
7:30- 9:30PM

\$15 /PARTICIPANT  
RSVP BY 2 NOV



3 DECEMBER 2025  
7:30- 9:30PM

\$15 /PARTICIPANT  
RSVP BY 30 NOV

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH MEETING ROOM  
2 FAGANS RD, ARCADIA

Create.Share.Encounter  
A Creative Women's Ministry

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

RSVP

## CHILDREN'S MASS

Our next Children's Mass will be held on Sunday, 2nd November at 10:30am.

We warmly invite all families and children to join us in this joyful celebration of the Eucharist!

## PIETY SHOP NEWS

Visit Our Parish Piety Shop!

Get ready for the season of **Advent!**

New Advent stock is arriving soon — including Advent calendars, Advent puzzles, and Advent candles to help you prepare your heart and home for Christmas.

Christmas cards will also be available in store soon! Come visit the Piety Shop and take a look at the beautiful new items to support your Advent journey.

## 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 *Vincent Bacha, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.*

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

*Maria Pappallardo, Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana ~ May they rest in Peace.*





## MEMORIAL MASS

BIAGIO ABIGNANO



### ONE YEAR MASS

Will be held on Saturday the 25th October 2025  
At the 7:00pm Vigil Mass

*Eternal rest grant to him O Lord  
and let the perpetual light shine upon him  
and may he rest in peace.  
Amen.*

## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

### DANNY KAZZI & JASON SAKKAL

A heartfelt thank you to Danny Kazzi and Jason Sakkal for their dedication in mowing the parish lawns.

Your service helps keep our parish grounds beautiful and welcoming for everyone!

## ST BENEDICT'S PAX YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

### LAUNCH NIGHT!

We're excited to announce the first Young Adults  
**Youth Group for ages 18-25**, kicking off on:  
**Sunday the 9th of November**  
**6pm at St Benedict's Parish!**

Join us for an Induction Night - a relaxed evening to meet everyone, share ideas, and help shape the future of our young adults community.

If you'd like to attend or get involved, please contact Amy of Natalia to be added to our WhatsApp group chat and follow our social media for updates and event info.

Come along, bring a friend, and be part of something new!

Contact :  
Amy - 0459 930 117  
Natalia - 0400 872 697  
Instagram : @stbenedictsyouth

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

*The Spirituality of the Catechist* by Michael Tebbutt continues **Missionary Zeal**. "As a catechist, would you describe yourself as enthusiastic? Does our body language match the joy of the Gospel that we are proclaiming or do we enter the classroom as if we have just attended a funeral?"

From Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (*On Evangelization in Our Times*) we read: 'Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn'(24). As catechists, we must radiate the Good News of the Gospel to be effective catechists.

Free training continues for all Catechists provided by the CCD –

- Ministry Induction training for Provisional Catechists Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October from 10am-12:15pm via Zoom. The topic will be "Safeguarding Children/Child Protection".
- Level 2 training for fully authorised Catechists on "The Church in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium" concludes on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 10am -12:15pm via Zoom. The topic will be "Catholic Social Teaching"
- RSVP [registrations@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:registrations@bbcatholic.org.au)

Please keep our parish Catechists, and the students that they teach, in prayer. If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact myself or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless,  
Miriam Brown  
[srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



## ST BENEDICT'S KIDS YOUTH GROUP

Join the fun! Ages 8–12 years

Our **Kids Youth Group** is back on **Friday, 24th October 2025!**

A wonderful opportunity for children to **grow in faith, make friends, and enjoy fun activities** in a safe and welcoming environment.

A big **thank you to Gabe & Jules** for helping make this possible!

## 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!



## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### ALL SAINTS DAY

**Feast Day: November 1**

The Solemnity of All Saints honors all men and women who have entered Heaven, but we particularly focus on those who led extraordinarily holy lives and whom the Church has canonized as saints. They honored God in various ways: through deep prayer and mystical union, through martyrdom or persecution, or through service, such as caring for the needy. The saints include powerful preachers, miracle workers, and leaders, while others lived in obscurity or exile.

By honoring the saints, we honor and glorify God Who made them holy. Heaven will be the eternal glory of God through the lives of His saints. In Heaven, the saints' virtues, sacrifices, prayers, and service will eternally manifest God's mercy and goodness. Every saint in Heaven will join a continuous chorus of angelic praise and worship of God. With the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones, the saints will cry "Holy, Holy, Holy..." With the Dominions, Virtues, and Powers, the saints will participate in God's providential care of the New Heavens and Earth. With the Principalities, Archangels, and Guardian Angels, the saints will celebrate God's protection and continuous communication with His sons and daughters. Heaven today, and the New Heavens and Earth at the end of time, will be a continuous solemn celebration of God in His essence and of all that He has done in the lives of those who responded to His grace.

Honoring the saints is an invitation to each of us to strive for the holiness the saints attained. The saints' lives are a "how to" book in holiness. We study and ponder the lives of the "super saints"—such as the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Ávila, Thérèse of Lisieux, Augustine of Hippo, and Thomas Aquinas—to learn from their examples. From Heaven, the saints are our powerful intercessors. God uses the saints and angels to mediate His grace. We rely upon their intercession as an act of faith by which we profess our belief in God.

Today's solemnity has its roots in the earliest days of the Church. Even in New Testament times, the community of believers honored martyrs, beginning with the deacon Saint Stephen. More martyrs followed, as the Church suffered persecution under the Roman emperors from AD 64 through 311.

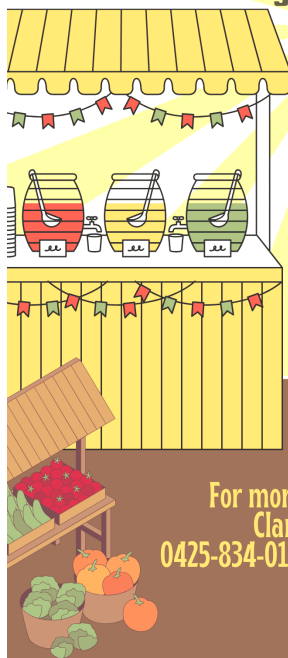
After Emperor Constantine I legalized Christianity in 313, public devotion to the martyrs flourished, their graves becoming churches and places of pilgrimage and prayer. On May 13, 609, Pope Boniface IV transformed the Roman Pantheon, a pagan temple, into a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and all martyrs. On November 1, 731, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory within Saint Peter's Basilica to "all saints," including the Apostles, martyrs, confessors, and all holy men and women, broadening commemoration of the saints to all who lived saintly lives. In 844, Pope Gregory IV extended the November 1 celebration to the entire Church. In 1484, Pope Sixtus IV made November 1 a holy day of obligation, adding a vigil day and octave to make the celebration nine days in all. The vigil for All Hallows' Day was called All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween, which has unfortunately lost its saintly focus and has become a secular, and even pagan, celebration.

***All saints in Heaven, I thank you for the holy witness you each have given to the Church and rejoice in the blessings you now enjoy in Heaven. Please pray that all people will become holy, bearing witness to Christ with our lives, and will one day enter Heaven. May God pour forth an abundance of grace upon the world through the example you set and the prayers you now pray before His throne. All saints of God, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.***

# THE MORE THE MERRIER KIDS MARKETS

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2025  
St Benedict's Parish  
2 Fagans Rd, Arcadia

10 AM  
-  
3 PM



ALL STALLS WILL BE RUN BY  
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18!  
JUMPING CASTLE, GAMES,  
FRESH FRUIT & VEG,  
FOOD, FUN AND MUCH  
MORE!

Please come and support our Youth Group  
Fundraiser event

For more information please contact  
Clare or Dominic Woodbury  
0425-834-017 / [nerida.woodbury@gmail.com](mailto:nerida.woodbury@gmail.com)

If any parents are available to help with the **sausage sizzle** and the **Popcorn machine**, it would be greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you all next Saturday for this amazing day at the **KIDS MARKETS** at St Benedict's Parish Arcadia! Please come support our Youth Group fundraiser event.

Contact: Clare or Dominic on 0425 834 017

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION INTRODUCTION AND RENEWAL DAY

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia on Sunday, 16th November 2025.

Arrival from 10am for 10:30am start. No charge, donations welcomed.

Registration on the day, please bring your own picnic lunch, Tea and coffee

provided. Books available for purchase. Presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, periods of Meditation, Midday Prayer with the monks. Mass at 2pm. Conclusion at 3pm.

General enquires: Ann Lomas 0437 340 250

# SAVE THE DATE! St Benedict's Country Fete Sunday, March 22, 2026

Mark your calendars and get ready!

Our much-loved St Benedict's Country Fete will return next year—bigger, brighter, and full of fun for the whole family.

There will be stalls, games, food, entertainment, raffles, and plenty of parish spirit to enjoy.

This is one of the highlights of our parish year, and we can't wait to welcome parishioners, families, and friends from near and far. Stay tuned for more details—and start spreading the word!

Together, let's make this fete a joyful celebration of community and faith!

## ST BENEDICT'S RADIATE "Let your light shine" TEENS YOUTH GROUP

Calling all teens aged 13 to 18!

Our parish is excited to launch RADIATE, a youth group designed for fun, friendship, and faith. This is a space where young people can come together to grow closer to God, learn more about their faith, and enjoy social activities in a supportive and welcoming environment.

First Meeting: Friday, 31st October  
After the 7pm Mass until 9pm.

Location: St Benedict's Parish Hall

Who Can Join: All teens aged 13–18

Bring your friends and get ready for engaging activities, games, discussions, and a chance to make new friends!

Contact: Sophia – 0432 605 054  
for more information.

Come and let your light shine!

# Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
**MORNING TEA**  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

1/11/2025 to 2/11/2025  
**ALL SAINTS & SOULS DAY - YEAR C**

|             | SATURDAY<br>7.00pm | SUNDAY<br>9.00am | SUNDAY<br>10.30am |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Acolyte     |                    | Lorraine D       | George A          |
| Reader1     | Daniel V           | Kath M           | CHILDREN          |
| Reader2     | Edyn V             | Nigel M          | CHILDREN          |
| Prayers     | Margaret B         | Ann L            | CHILDREN          |
| TV          |                    | Mary A           | Eva F             |
| Music       |                    | Melanie H        | Melanie H         |
| Music       |                    | Theresa N        | Max F             |
| Music       |                    | Marisa Q         | Adam F            |
| Music       |                    | Pauline H        | Hannah F          |
| Morning Tea |                    | Sophie R         | Volunteer         |
| FLOWERS     | Souraya K          |                  |                   |



*Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!*

### 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.

For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:  
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

## 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



Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday night! It was a beautiful celebration with Bishop Robert McGuckin presiding over this joyous occasion.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this day so special:

Sacramental Team: **Gebran Azzi, Tanya John, Jules Ozolins, Mandah Vella, Mary Abood, Paula El-Chaar, Melanie Hume and Paul El-Chaar.**

Musicians: **Melanie Hume & Keith Wallace**  
Extra Helpers: **Daniel Vella, Edyn Vella, Rosie Sakkal, Teresa Gambino, Jonah Azzi & Roderick Raad.**

Special Thanks: **Gabe Wall** for arranging the stunning flowers in the Church!

The children will continue their journey next year with Reconciliation and Holy Communion. God bless you all!

## NEXT NEW SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS - mid 2026

For any queries please email the parish office:  
[arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm**  
(School holidays only open Fridays)

**Parish Office:** 02 9653 2312  
**Address:** 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159  
**Email:** [arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com)  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233

**Facebook:** stbenedictsarcadia



**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**