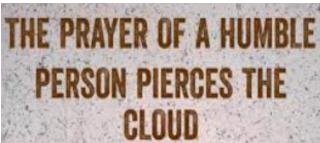
# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





# THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY

# **IN ORDINARY TIME**

# YEAR A

## 4 & 5 NOVEMBER 2023

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

#### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. 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 - HUMBLE**

**Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12, Jesus says:** "The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted."

We need to be a humble Church and humble in dealing with each other.

- Am I being humble with others or do I exalt myself?
- Do I appreciate the good wherever I find it?
- Am I humble in receiving instructions and follow what God gives me by speaking with love in my heart?



#### PRAYER

Lord, help me to live my life being humble with others and not exalt myself. Help me live everyday in sincerity and truth lifting up Your name for Your praise and glory. **Amen**.

## PARISH MASS TIMES

## 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 10:00am to 11:00am Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

## **MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses**

Sundays Daily

7:00am 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS RECONCILIATION FOR THE SICK MARRIAGES FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

## THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** *Malachi 1:14 - 2:2, 8-10 (JB)* A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R.** In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

#### **Second Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13 (JB)* A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good news to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 23:1-12 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew *They do not practise what they preach.* 

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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



That ye would walk

worthy of God, who hath called you

unto his kingdom and glory.

Thessalonians 2:12



YEAR A

#### GOSPEL REFLECTION Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10 Psalm 131:1-3 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13 Matthew 23:1-12

*They tie up heavy burdens . . . and lay them on people's shoulders. (Matthew 23:4)* Today we read how Jesus accused Jerusalem's religious leaders of laying "heavy burdens" on people by imposing more and more rules on them (Matthew 23:4). But wasn't he doing the same thing? After all, he's the one who told people, "Take my yoke upon you" (11:29). Isn't a yoke—a contraption made of iron and hardwood—a burden as well?

Maybe so, but anyone who spent time with Jesus saw that the burden he spoke about was completely different and much more attractive!

First, Jesus said that the burdens imposed by these scribes and Pharisees "nullified the word of God" (Matthew 15:2-6). They consisted of rules and fasts and tithes that were nowhere to be found in the Law of Moses. Some of them even contradicted God's will for his people. But Jesus' yoke is meant to help us "fulfill" the word of God" (5:17). It's a yoke that calls us simply to love him and love our neighbor (22:34-40).

Jesus also said that his opponents placed burdens on people but did not "lift a finger" to help them (Matthew 23:4). By contrast, Jesus used the image of a yoke to describe his "burden." A yoke is an instrument that links two oxen together so they can help each other bear the load. And that's the point: Jesus wants to yoke himselfto us so that he canwalk beside us and help to lighten our burden.

Finally, and most important, the burdens of Jesus' opponents were made up of human regulations and restrictions, of additional fasts and tithes, that could not bring people closer to God. But the exact opposite happens when we accept Jesus' yoke. We come into an ever deepening relationship with him. And that relationship fills us with the joy and comfort of his own Spirit.

So come to Jesus today. Let him yoke himself to you in a bond of everlasting love. *"Jesus, thank you that your burden is light!"* 

Source: Word Among Us India

#### LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK **NOVEMBER** Monday 6 Readings: Rom 11:19-36. Lk 14:12-14. **Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** R: Lord, in your great love, answer me. O God, who from living and chosen stones Prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, Tuesday 7 Readings: Rom 12:5-16. Lk 14:15-24. Increase in your church the spirit of grace R: In you, Lord, I have found my peace. You have bestowed So that by new growth your faithful people May build up the heavenly Jerusalem. Wednesday 8 Readings: Rom 13:8-10. Lk 14:25-33. R: Happy the merciful who give to those in need. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you Thursday 9 Readings: Ezek 47:1-3, 8-9, 12. Jn 2:13-22. in the unity of the Holy Spirit, R: The waters of the river gladden the city of God. one God, for ever and ever The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Friday 10 Readings: Rom 15:14-21. Lk 16:1-8. R: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. St Leo the Great, pope, doctor Readings: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27. Saturday 11 R: I will praise your name for ever, Lord. St Martin of Tours, bishop. Source: Ordo 2023

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2023

#### For The Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



#### **THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT** Chapter 4 - To make peace with one's adversary before sundown.

#### 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

### ALL SAINTS MASS



Thank you to all the children who dressed up in their favourite saint outfit on the feast of All Saints. It was a beautiful Mass and this made it even more special. God bless our children!

# AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

### DIOCESAN OUTREACH ASSISTANTS

Could you share the stories of suffering Christians? Are you looking for flexible part time work?

Aid to the Church in Need is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across Sydney, Broken Bay and Maitland-Newcastle. For more information and to view the full job ad go to www.aidtochurch.org/work.

Or scan this QRcode:



#### ST BENEDICT'S FETE 2024

We will be holding a meeting for the Fete on: **Tuesday November 14 at 7pm** in the Parish Meeting Room. Everyone welcome with ideas.

For more information please contact Fr Shansana.

# 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 Charlie Micallef, Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Jenny Taylor and baby Hugo.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Koana Zouein, Charlie Camilleri and John Hourigan. *May they rest in Peace.* 

#### **ROOF UPDATE**

Not long and the roof will be complete! It's looking amazing especially as we had local professionals pressure clean all the black soot from the brick walls on the outside. It looks so fresh and clean and ready for Christmas!

Please ensure children or anyone to stay away from the scaffolding for safety reasons.



#### GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (GCEA)

## PRAYER LUNCHEON

**St Benedict's Parish** will be hosting the next GCEA luncheon.

When: Saturday November 18, 2023 Time: 12:00pm

All welcome, please bring a plate to share. Come and support this great community helping provide a Religious Education teacher in Galston High School.

For more information please contact Pauline Honor.

#### **BIRTHDAY WISHES**

#### Wishing **FATHER DAVID** a very happy birthday!

9 November

God bless you on your birthday!







# **VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!**

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

#### **KATH MORAN**

Thank you Kath for your constant volunteering to do the reading and asking for help in the mornings. Also thank you for the previous years for all you did.

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.

#### CATHOLIC WOMEN SELF-CARE WEEK

FREE 5-day training with Catholic Coach Monica Elias Nov 13-17

Are you perpetually on the edge of burnout? Whether you are overwhelmed with the demands of a large family, juggling work and home, or pouring yourself out in service in ministries or volunteering, **Catholic women are in a constant state of stress, overwhelm, and exhaustion.** 

Day 1: Self-care through Self-talk

- Day 2: Self-care through your Ideal Conditions
- Day 3: Self-care through your Strengths
- Day 4: Self-care through your Motivations

Day 5: Q&A and open coaching

Learn the secret to taking better care of yourself so that you can do the work God has for you in the world.

Join us at tinyurl.com/catholicselfcare2023.

Email Monica Elias: mjelias17@gmail.com for queries.

Monica Elias Coaching

CATHOLIC SELF-CARE WEEK



November 13-17 2023

#### **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.

# CATECHISTS' NEWS

Current training available for all Catechists who have completed the induction training – 'Level 2 Certificate – The Church in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium' – Fridays 10am – 12:15pm via Zoom. This week's session - Friday 10<sup>th</sup>November, the topic will be 'Catholic Social Teaching'.

To register email <u>registrations@bbcatholic.org.au</u>, or for further information please contact me.

The CCD is also holding an Advent Reflection Day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10am-1pm at Chatswood.

RSVP <u>registrations@bbcatholic.org.au</u> or for further information please contact me.

If you are interested in knowing more about being a Catechist (Scripture teacher) or helper please feel free to talk to me, or Paula in the parish office or our priests, or any parish Catechist.

God bless,

Miriam Brown <u>srearcadia@gmail.com</u> Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



#### **KINDNESS**

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

Mark Twain

#### THE DANIEL MORCOMBE FOUNDATION

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation provides personal child safety education to children and young people to prevent abuse and promote lifelong health and wellbeing. The Foundation supports educatiors, parents and carers through the provision of resources and education and also directly support young victims of crime. The Boomer Challenge is the latest and FREE resource from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

The Boomer Challenge gives children aged 8 to 12 the skills to recognise potentially unsafe and risky online situations, and to make decisions and problem solve in the online world. For instructions on joining the challenge and many other resources from the Foundation,

Visit:

https://danielmorcombe.com.au/keeping-kids-safe/ keeping-kids-safe/the-boomer-challenge/



#### CRAFT GROUP

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

## **ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP**

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.



For more details call Angela Egiziano Ph: 9653 2312



# SAINT OF THE WEEK

#### ST LEO THE GREAT, Pope and Doctor

#### Feast Day: November 10

#### C. 400-461

Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIV in 1754

When Cardinal Ratzinger was elected pope, taking the name Benedict XVI, the first words he spoke from the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica referred to his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, whom he referred to as "the great pope." Since then, many have referred to him as "John Paul the Great." Prior to that, only three popes came to be universally called "the Great"—Saint Gregory the Great (590–604), Saint Nicholas the Great (858–867), and the pope we honor today, Saint Leo the Great (440–461), who was the first pope to receive that title.

Leo was born in Tuscany, within the Western Roman Empire, at a time when the empire was experiencing decline due to ongoing threats of barbarian invasions, internal administrative disputes, and a difficult economic situation. Leo considered himself a Roman, since he spent his early years in the city. While still young, he was ordained a deacon in Rome under Pope Celestine and served him and his successor, Pope Sixtus III, in this capacity from 430–439. Deacons in Rome served the Church in important ways—as organizers of charitable works, liturgical services, and diplomatic missions; as administrators; and often as papal advisors. Deacon Leo quickly became highly respected in Rome as a man of unmatched theological learning and pastoral wisdom, prudence, and courage.

In 439, a dispute broke out in the northern part of the Roman Empire between a Roman prefect named Albinus and a prominent Roman general named Aetius. Seeing the need for a resolution so as to avoid internal conflict and even war, the Western Roman emperor asked the pope to send Deacon Leo to broker peace. While on the diplomatic mission, Pope Sixtus III died and the Roman clergy quickly chose Deacon Leo as the new pontiff. Word was sent to him, and he returned to Rome, was ordained a bishop on September 29, 440, and took charge of the keys of Saint Peter.

As the newly elected pope, Pope Leo wasted no time. At the heart of his mission was unity in the true faith, under the Vicar of Christ. At that time, papal primacy was not as clear as it is today. Not all supported the idea that the pope was the universal pastor and teacher of the faith, holding universal authority.

One way Pope Leo taught about papal primacy was by exercising it. When he became aware of heresies, he exercised discipline. He discovered that some clerics in Aquileia were holding on to the heresy of Pelagianism and instructed the bishop that they could not be admitted to communion unless they fully and publicly renounced their error. In Rome, when he discovered a sect of Manichæism, he sought the members out, engaged them in public debate, burned their books with the support of the civil authorities, and did all he could to purge them from the Church. When he learned that the heresy of Priscillianism was growing in Spain, he wrote at length to the Spanish bishops, pointing out the heresy, and advising them on ways to root it out. In all of this, Pope Leo began to emerge as "the" pope, not just one spiritual father among many others. He saw himself as the Vicar of Christ and acted as the Vicar of Christ, helping to further solidify this teaching of papal primacy.

During the first few centuries of the Church, various problems and heresies emerged and were dealt with by local bishops, councils, and synods. In the fourth and fifth centuries, once Christianity was legalized and supported in the Roman Empire, four ecumenical (universal) councils took place that addressed the entire Church and clarified the universal teaching on various Christological beliefs, while also condemning heretical views. Nicea was the first of the ecumenical councils and took place in 325. The other councils were Constantinople (381), Ephesus (431), and Chalcedon (451). At each of these councils, the pope played a role, consenting with the decisions either in person or through papal legate. Such was the case with Pope Leo at the Council of Chalcedon.

The Council of Chalcedon was called by the Roman emperor in response to the Monophysite heresy, which taught that Christ had only a single nature that was either divine or a fusion of divine and human. Pope Leo exercised his authority over the Church by refusing to permit the council to move forward unless his papal legates presided over it. The emperor agreed. Of this council, Pope Benedict XVI said, "This Council, held in 451 and in which 350 Bishops took part, was the most important assembly ever to have been celebrated in the history of the Church." He went on to explain that Chalcedon was the culmination and fulfillment of the previous three ecumenical councils, providing the Church with a definitive understanding of the nature of Christ, the Trinity, and the Mother of God. Pope Leo sent a lengthy letter with his legates to the Council of Chalcedon, which was originally sent to the Archbishop of Constantinople, in which he articulated that Christ had two distinct natures coexisting in one person, not just one nature. His famous letter, referred to as the "Tome of Leo," stated in part:

(continue over...)

(continued from previous page ...)

Without detriment, therefore, to the properties of either of the two natures and substances which are joined in the one person, majesty took on humility; strength, weakness; eternity, mortality; and, in order to pay off the debt which attached to our condition, inviolable nature was united with passible nature, so that, as suited the cure of our ills, one and the same Mediator between God and men, the Man Jesus Christ, could die with the one nature and not die with the other. Thus true God was born in the whole and perfect nature of true man; complete in what was His own, complete in what was ours.

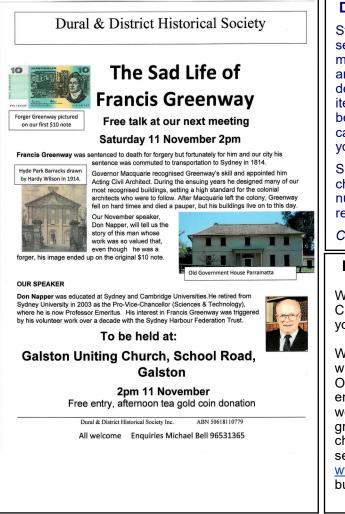
Once the letter was read to all the gathered bishops, they jointly cried, "Peter has spoken through Leo!" A decree was then formulated, based on Pope Leo's letter, that taught the orthodox position and declared the Monophysite position to be a heresy.

In 451, barbarians from the north arrived in northern Italy with the intention of conquering the Western Roman Empire. Before the invaders advanced to Rome, Pope Leo went out to meet them to broker peace. When he met up with their leader, Attila the Hun, legend has it that Saints Peter and Paul appeared behind the pope with swords and in a threatening position. The sight was so overwhelming to Attila that he and his army withdrew in fear for their lives.

Pope Leo's final years in Rome were spent preaching and teaching. He left behind about 100 sermons and 150 letters, all of which present many clear teachings on Christ and the Church in a pastoral and convincing way. These letters and sermons have had a profound influence on later Catholic thought. Pope Leo also fostered personal devotions, fasting, and almsgiving. He enlivened the liturgy, helped the sick, built churches, and preached the Gospel to his people.

As we honor Saint Leo the Great, reflect upon the fact that this one man had an enormous impact on the life of the Church. Though he is widely unknown today, his impact is still felt by the faithful, given the direction in which he steered the Church during his papacy, and because of the influence his writings had on the ongoing formulation of Christian doctrine. Offer a prayer of gratitude to God for his life, and pray for the pope today and every pope to follow, that they will turn to Saint Leo the Great as an example for their own papal ministry.

Saint Leo the Great, you exercised your papal ministry with humility and strength, wisdom and pastoral diplomacy, guiding the Church through a difficult period. Please pray for me, that I will learn from your example and always remain firm in my faith, doing all I can to lead others to God. Saint Leo the Great, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



#### DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, Puzzles (with all pieces) etc. as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc. Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

Sr Mary boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse she reports it.

Cathy Holling 0403 062 255

#### INTERESTED IN A JOB WITH CATHOLICCARE?

We are the social care and support agency of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Broken Bay, assisting children, young people and adults to live more enriched lives.

We provide quality services tailored to individual needs which consider people's social and cultural backgrounds. Our team are inspired, capable, compassionate and embody our values and demonstrate our mission in their work. In return for their passion and commitment we offer great benefits to ensure our people are motivated, challenged and supported to achieve their full potential. To see our current job vacancies visit

www.catholiccaredbb.org.au and click the CAREERS button on the top menu or call 1800 324 924.

# NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER 11/11/2023 to 12/11/2023 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Kath M	Gebran A
Reader2	Maria G	Rebecca R	Adam J
Prayers	Kathryn S	Matt W	Fogarty Family
TV		Roderick R	Joshua A
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Marisa Q	Adam F
Music		Theresa N	Martina J
Music		Teresa G	
Morning Tea		Mary A	
	Hannah A		



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: Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm Facebook MONASTERY: 9653 1159 Parish Office: 02 9653 2312 Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: **CBA—Catholic Development Fund** After hours: 0437 884 233 Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 For all parish Occupational Health & Safety Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159 and Safeguarding Children matters Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.