

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## 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)

## 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

## TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### YEAR A

24 & 25 JUNE 2023

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people,  
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.  
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,  
and govern them for ever.

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant, O Lord,  
that we may always revere and love your holy name,  
for you never deprive of your guidance  
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.  
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: DEEP LOVE

*Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 10:26-33*

*Jesus said to the disciples, "every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid."*

*This is a beautiful illustration of God's deep love for me.*

- *How will I respond to this deep love?*
- *Will I get a chance to acknowledge Jesus before others today?*
- *If I cannot find the words to help others, what about a kind act?*
- *I know I do not have all the answers to convince everyone but do I at least try by showing others the love of Christ in me?*



### PRAYER:

*Dear Lord, thank you for the deep love you have for me. Help me show others by that love you show me not only by the words I say, but with all that I do. Amen.*

**First Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,  
 "Terror from every side!"  
 Denounce him! Let us denounce him!  
 All those who used to be my friends  
 watched for my downfall,  
 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.  
 Then we will master him and take our revenge!  
 But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;  
 my opponents will stumble, mastered,  
 confounded by their failure;  
 everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.  
 But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,  
 who scrutinise the loins and heart,  
 let me see the vengeance you will take on them,  
 for I have committed my cause to you.  
 Sing to the Lord,  
 praise the Lord,  
 for he has delivered the soul of the needy  
 from the hands of evil men.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**



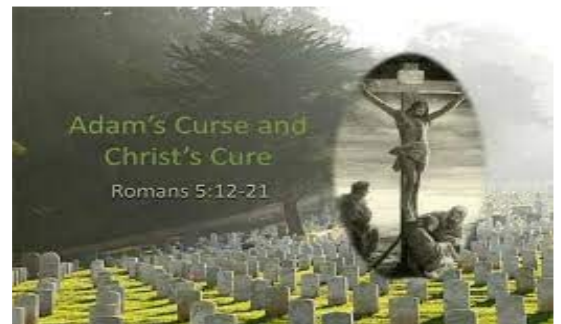
**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

**Second Reading: Romans 5:12-15 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*



Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

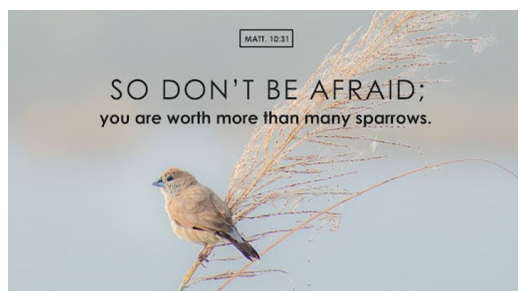
The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,  
 and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: Matthew 10:26-33 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*



Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, June 25

**Jeremiah 20:10-13**  
**Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35**  
**Romans 5:12-15**  
**Matthew 10:26-33**

*You are worth more than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:31)*

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to the twelve apostles as they prepare to go out and preach the good news. He's urging them to take courage and to trust in their heavenly Father's care. His words would help them as they began their missionary expedition but would also help them for the rest of their lives. Although they might face suffering or rejection, they could draw strength from remembering that they are "worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).

The disciples probably had to cling to these words often as they went forth to witness. Not everyone accepted their preaching, and they couldn't work miracles as consistently as Jesus had (Matthew 17:16-20). But it didn't matter, because their worth came not from what they did, but rather from who they were: children of God. They could rely on their Father's care for them no matter what. They could trust that his love wasn't based on their success or their worthiness. It was based on the fact that he had created them in his image and likeness. He loved them, eternally, simply because he *is* love.

Jesus speaks these words to you today: *You are worth more than many sparrows.* The same Father in heaven who cared for those disciples cares for you. He sees your every joy and every difficulty and loves you through all of them. He even loves you when you stumble! He rejoices when you witness to his goodness and delights when you care for your family. He values you when you are confined to bed and all you can do is offer him your pain. He sees it all. He loves you—not because of what you do, but because of who you are.

You are more than the sum of your successes and failures. You are a beloved child of your Father in heaven—you are worth more than many sparrows.

***"I trust in you, Jesus, because you care for me."***

Source: Word Among Us India

## LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

### June

Monday 26 Readings: Gen 12:1-9. Mt 7:1-5.  
**R:** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Tuesday 27 Readings: Gen 13:2, 5-18. Mt 7:6, 12-14.  
**R:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.  
**St Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor.**

Wednesday 28 Readings: Gen 15:1-12, 17-18. Mt 7:15-20.  
**R:** The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.  
**St Irenaeus, bishop, martyr.**

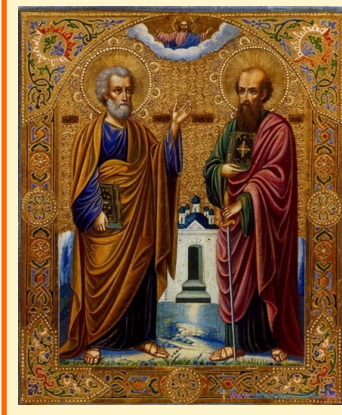
Thursday 29 Readings: Acts 12:1-11. 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18. Mt 16:13-19.  
**R:** The Lord set me free from all my fears.  
**Sts PETER and PAUL, apostles.**

Friday 30 Readings: Gen 17:1, 9-10, 15-22.  
**R:** See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.  
**First Martyrs of Holy Roman Church.**

### July

Saturday 1 Readings: Gen 18:1-15. Mt 8:5-17.  
**R:** The Lord has remembered his mercy.

*O holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, intercede for us. Protect, O Lord, your people who trust in the patronage of your Apostles, Peter and Paul, and by their constant protection protect your people. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Source: Ordo 2023

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2023

### FOR A EUCHARISTIC LIFE

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.





## THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

To reverence the old.

### 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: 10002141**

**Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:**

**CBA—Catholic Development Fund**



St Vincent de Paul Society

NSW

good works

### ST.VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL

We are hoping to collect any **non-perishable food and toiletries** you may be able to donate.

We also want to express our gratitude for the generous donations we have received through the Poor Boxes in the church. These donations and those from our appeals are hugely appreciated as we are helping so many more families suffering hardship in these difficult times.

We take this opportunity to welcome Marie Endicott as a new member of Arcadia Conference. We are delighted to have her on board.

*Rita, Lila, Marie & Karen - Vinnies Arcadia.*

**CATHOLIC VOCATIONS**  
BROKEN BAY  
PRAY, DISCERN & ACT

### DIACONATE INFORMATION EVENING

**COULD THE DIACONATE BE THE WAY GOD IS CALLING YOU TO SERVE HIS CHURCH?**

Join us at Holy Name Parish Wahroonga and find out more about the Permanent Diaconate.

**WED, JULY 5 @ 7:30PM**

Holy Name Parish  
35 Billyard Ave  
Wahroonga NSW 2076

RSVP to 0418 522 449 or  
vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au

Fresco in the Nicchola Chapel of the Palazzo, depicting Saint Peter consecrating the Seven Deacons. Saint Stephen is shown kneeling.

### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

2023/2024

Envelopes are ready for collection for the year 2023/2024. They are in alphabetical order on the front pew of the church. Please collect them ASAP.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

**PARENT INFORMATION EVENING THIS MONDAY 26 JUNE AT 7PM IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM**

### OUR NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

is now open, commencing with Confirmation (child must be in year 3 or above, this year). Confirmation classes will be held in August 2023.

The forms are available in the sacristy, otherwise please email the parish if you would like your child to be added to the list. The form is also available on the parish website.

*In the Diocese of Broken Bay, the order of receiving of the sacraments is:*

*Confirmation, Reconciliation, then Eucharist.*

*Children are usually prepared for these sacraments in Years 3 and 4.*



### REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:  
**ROSARIA CALI**

**Funeral will be held here in the parish on Tuesday 4 July at 10:30am.**

*Eternal Rest grant to her O Lord,  
And let the Perpetual light shine upon her,  
May she Rest in Peace.  
Amen*

**Our prayers and thoughts are with all the Cali family and friends.**



## 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 Gina Volpato (John's mum), Tony Takchi, Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum) and Jenny Taylor.**

**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Rosaria Cali, Carmen Camilleri and Karl Maurer, and Lyla Abood (first anniversary). May they rest in Peace.**





## WORLD REFUGEE WEEK

Marked first on this day in 2001 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, this day provides us with an opportunity to recognise and reflect on the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum. Fundamentally, it is also an opportunity to celebrate and honour the incredible contributions that they continue to have in our communities, both in Australia and around the world.

We celebrate the immeasurable, positive contributions that refugees and people seeking asylum have made in Australia. In 2023 the theme of 'finding freedom' calls us to remember the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate everyone.



## CCJP SEMINAR: THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION AND THE VOICE

Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace are holding a seminar on the Voice Referendum with speaker Dr Anne Twomey AO, an Australian lawyer specialising in Australian constitutional law who has been involved in determining the wording of the Referendum question. She will speak about how the constitution works and what an indigenous Voice enshrined in the constitution means.

Date: Thursday 29 June

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Venue: Mercy Convent, 4-6 Victoria Rd North Parramatta

## 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.



## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Beginning with the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, the Church has come to a renewed appreciation of the importance of lay involvement in the work of evangelization. The Council Fathers repeatedly emphasized the great need for the lay faithful to be engaged directly, in the various ways their charism can be expressed, in the "plantatio Ecclesiae" and the development of the Christian community. "Worthy of praise too is that army of catechists, both men and women, to whom missionary work among the nations is so indebted, who imbued with an apostolic spirit make an outstanding and absolutely necessary contribution to the spread of the faith and the Church by their great work. In our days, when there are so few clerics to evangelize such great multitudes and to carry out the pastoral ministry, the role of catechists is of the highest importance" (cf. SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity *Ad Gentes*, 17). Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 10 May 2021 Instituting the Ministry of Catechist

Last day for Term 2 is this Friday 30 June. Term 3 will start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Wishing all a safe and enjoyable holiday break!

The Safeguarding Children training for all Catechists has been rescheduled for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 9:30am - 12:30pm.

If you would like to learn more about being a Catechist or a helper, please talk to myself, or one of our parish Catechists or any of our priests. Training, a Teacher's Manual and workbooks are provided free.

God bless,

Miriam Brown [srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)



## VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK!

For the nomination this week we would like to thank the following volunteers:

**GABRIELLE WALL** - Organising beautiful flowers for the Holy Communion and arranging them.

**MONA MAKAJ** - Assisting organising the flowers for the Holy Communion and arranging them.



Thank you for the beautiful arrangements for the Holy Communion. It made the day extra special. It was very much appreciated!

## ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.





# First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

Died c. 64

Feast Day June 30



*At Rome, in the time of Nero, the commemoration of many holy martyrs, who were accused of having set fire to the city, and cruelly put to death in various manners by the emperor's order. Some were covered with the skins of wild beasts and lacerated by dogs; others were fastened to crosses, others again were delivered to the flames to serve as torches in the night. All these were disciples of the Apostles, and the first fruits of the martyrs, which the Roman Church, a field so fertile in martyrs, offered to God before the death of the Apostles.*  
~Roman Martyrology

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus was the fifth Roman Emperor who reigned from 54–68 A.D. He was known to be extravagant, impulsive, tyrannical, violent, and a madman. He murdered his first wife and even his own mother. In the year 64, when Nero was twenty-seven and had been Roman emperor for ten years, a fire broke out in Rome. The fire burned for nine days, destroying most of the city. Many believe that Nero himself had the fire set to make room for a new palace. When people started to question him, he blamed the Christians for the fire. At that time, Christians were a small minority within Rome and were seen as a menace and disruption to the traditional Roman way of life and the traditional Roman gods. Nero then systematically had as many Christians as he could arrested, tried, and murdered in the most brutal ways. One ancient pagan historian from that time named Tacitus recounts it this way:

*Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace...Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.*

*Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.*

These first Christian martyrs in the city of Rome are remembered and honored by the Church today. Saints Peter and Paul were among them, but numerous unknown others also gave their lives. Some of them were sewn into the bellies of animals while still alive and then fed to wild dogs to be torn to pieces. Others were coated with wax and lit on fire at night as torches in Nero's gardens while he entertained guests. Still others were crucified like our Lord. These persecutions went beyond mere execution for a crime. They manifested an evil of the most diabolical nature.

Though these martyrdoms were expected to eliminate Christianity from the Roman Empire, those expectations were never realized. Instead, the courageous witness of these men and women planted and watered the seeds of faith that would continue to grow, blossom, and produce an abundance of good fruit.

For nearly three centuries, the persecution of Christians varied under different Roman Emperors. The most severe persecutions within the empire would occur two centuries later during the reigns of Emperors Decius (249-251) and Diocletian (284-305). It was not until the year 313, when Emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity with the Edict of Milan, that imperial persecutions ceased.

Today's feast is strategically placed just one day after the Church honors Saints Peter and Paul, the two most notable martyrs during this Neronian persecution. By celebrating Saints Peter and Paul first, followed by a feast for every other martyr who died alongside them, the Church invites us to place ourselves not only in the shadow of Saints Peter and Paul, but also to join with these many unknown Christians who shed their blood for their faith. Though the physical shedding of one's blood for Christ is a rare occurrence today, the depth of resolve Christians must have is the same. Every Christian, of every time and circumstance, must be so completely devoted to Christ that nothing, not even martyrdom, must deter us from our resolve.

As we ponder these unnamed heroes of our faith, prayerfully unite yourself to them. Look to Saints Peter and Paul as your chief inspiration and then resolve to become one of these unnamed witnesses who follow behind them. In Heaven, every sacrifice will be known and will become a cause for the glory of God. For now, many of our sacrifices are hidden and known only to us and to God. Rejoice in your own hidden sacrifices and know that those sacrifices unite you with those whom we honor today.

*Holy First Martyrs of Rome, you each endured much torment, hatred, and abuse, ultimately shedding your blood as the result of your deep courage and love of Christ. Please pray for me, that I may be counted among your numbers in Heaven by manifesting the same depth of love and courage that you did. First Martyrs of Rome, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## A LOVING RELATIONSHIP

Today we are sharing a story about Lily and Jack. They were not wealthy or famous, but their love for each other was extraordinary. Lily and Jack had known each other since childhood and as the years went by their bond deepened and they became inseparable. Their love was built on trust, respect and unwavering support.

Life threw its challenges at them, as it often does. They faced hardships, setbacks and moments of doubt, but together they stood tall, holding each other's hands and never losing hope. In the face of adversity, Lily and Jack found strength within their love. They embraced each other's flaws and celebrated their individual strengths. They were a team, complementing and uplifting one another. Their love story however, was not without sacrifices. They made compromises and let go of their ego for the greater good of their relationship. They understood that love meant putting their partner's happiness before their own.

Through the years, Lily and Jack inspired everyone around them. Their love radiated warmth and kindness, touching the hearts of those they encountered. Their relationship showed how love has the ability to change lives and make a lasting difference.

Lily and Jack's love story teaches us that true happiness lies not in material possessions or fleeting achievements, but in the genuine love and connection we share with another soul. It reminds us that a loving relationship can withstand the tests of time and inspire us to become the best versions of ourselves.

May we all be fortunate enough to experience a love as pure and enduring as Lily and Jack's, and may their story inspire us to nurture and cherish the loving relationships in our own lives.

*"Dear God, we humbly pray for Your blessings upon our relationship. Fill our hearts with love, compassion, patience and forgiveness. Help us navigate challenges together with grace and strengthen our bond each day. May our love be a reflection of Your divine love. Amen."*

Source: majellan.media

## PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

As the season of Easter draws to a close for 2023, the Music Ministry of our parish of St Benedict, Arcadia will commence the introduction of a new setting of the sung parts of the mass.

This mass called the **Mass of Saint Benedict** was written by Paul Taylor in 2013.

### Why this particular setting?

Paul Taylor has dedicated this composition to the following three Benedictine communities: **The Monks here at Arcadia**; The Good Samaritan Sisters who have had a long association with our parish community here at Arcadia; and the Benedictine community at St John's Abbey in Collegeville (a leading Catholic university in USA). Paul also includes Pope Benedict XVI in his dedication.

Paul Taylor is also the composer of the **Mass of Saint Francis**, which has been a long time Mass Setting in our parish repertoire.

### An Invitation to all parishioners

We assure you that the **Mass of Saint Benedict** will be a very singable addition to our current list of known Mass Settings, and we look forward to its regular use in our future liturgies.

With every blessing,

**The Music Ministry**



*Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass*

**DRAFT ROSTER NOW ON SACRISTY WINDOW – PLEASE CHECK**

**NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER**

**1/7/2023 to 2/7/2023**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**Parish Roster**

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Acolyte</b>		Nigel M	Volunteer please
<b>Reader1</b>	Kathryn S	Judy H	CHILDREN'S MASS
<b>Reader2</b>	Mary C	Kath M	CHILDREN'S MASS
<b>Prayers</b>	Margaret B	Rebecca R	CHILDREN'S MASS
<b>TV</b>		Roderick R	Volunteer please
<b>Music</b>		Melanie H	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Marisa Q	Keith W
<b>Music</b>		Teresa G	Noelle T
<b>Music</b>		Theresa N	Adam F
<b>Morning Tea</b>		Rosie S	Robin B
 <b>FLOWERS</b>	Gabrielle W		

*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

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

**Parish Administrator:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com  
**After hours:** 0437 884 233

**Address:** 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159  
**Postal address:** 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

**Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)  
**Facebook:** [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)

**MONASTERY:** 9653 1159



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

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:**  
**Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**